DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
2531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY
ARLINGTON, VA 22242-5160

IN REPLY REFER TO

November 8, 1996

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Department of the Navy is pleased to provide you the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for a Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel. The Department of the Navy issued the Draft EIS (DEIS) in May 1996 and held hearings during a 60 day public comment period to inform the public of the DEIS contents and to facilitate the receipt of comments. The FEIS addresses comments received and includes any changes to resolve those comments.

The FEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual, OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B. The Department of Energy is participating as a cooperating agency and adopted this FEIS (DOE/EIS-0251) on October 9, 1996. Approximately 1300 copies of the FEIS are being mailed to individuals nationwide.

The Navy generates small amounts of spent nuclear fuel as a consequence of the operation of its nuclear powered submarines, aircraft carriers, and guided missile cruisers. The total amount projected to be generated by the year 2035 is 65 metric tons (heavy metal), less than 0.1% of the amount of commercial spent fuel expected by that date (approximately 85,000 metric tons).

The FEIS addresses the need, alternatives, and environmental impacts of manufacturing containers; loading containers; handling and dry storage of naval spent nuclear fuel at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory; transportation of naval spent nuclear fuel loaded containers to a notional repository or centralized interim storage site; and the storage, handling, and transportation of certain radioactive waste associated with naval spent nuclear fuel management. Six alternative container systems for the management of naval spent nuclear fuel are evaluated: multi-purpose canisters; current technology; current technology supplemented by high capacity rail; dual-purpose canisters; transportable storage casks; and small multi-purpose canisters. The analysis in the FEIS shows that the environmental impacts are small and comparable among all of the alternatives considered.

Comments on the DEIS were received from a broad spectrum of private citizens, local, state, and federal officials. Native American Tribes and public interest groups also provided comments. Comments are reprinted in the FEIS in Chapter 11, which is new in its entirety. The response to each comment is provided following the

text of the comment. Changes to the remaining portions of the EIS are annotated by sidebars in the margins.

The following factors were considered in identifying a preferred alternative in the FEIS: public comments, protection of human health and the environment, cost, technical feasibility, operational efficiency, regulatory impacts, and storage or disposal criteria which may be established for a repository or centralized interim storage site outside the State of Idaho. Based on evaluation of these factors, the Navy's preferred alternative for a container system for the management of naval spent nuclear fuel is a dual-purpose canister system. The primary benefits of a dual-purpose canister system are efficiencies in container manufacturing and fuel handling operations.

For your information, enclosure (1) contains a list of libraries and reading rooms where copies of the FEIS have been placed.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. William Knoll at the Department of the Navy, Code NAVSEA 08U, 2531 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22242-5160 ((703)602-8229).

Richard A. Guida

Richard A. Guida
Associate Director
for Regulatory Affairs
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

Enclosure

READING ROOMS AND LIBRARIES

Copies of the FEIS have been placed in reading rooms and libraries including the following:

READING ROOMS

Public Reading Room for
U.S. DOE Headquarters
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 1E-190
Forrestal Building
Washington, DC

Public Reading Room for
U.S. DOE - Idaho Oper. Office
1776 Science Center Drive
Idaho Falls, ID

Public Reading Room for
U.S. DOE - Nevada Oper. Office
3004 South Highland Drive
Las Vegas, NV

Flagstaff Public Library
300 West Aspen Street
Flagstaff, AZ

Sacramento Library
Central Office
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA

Denver Public Library
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO

Boise Public Library
715 South Capital Boulevard
Boise, ID

Shoshone-Bannock Library
Bannock and Pima Streets
HRDC Building
Fort Hall, ID

Idaho Falls Public Library
457 Broadway
Idaho Falls, ID

Pocatello Public Library
113 South Garfield Street
Pocatello, ID

Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Library
501 Copper NW
Albuquerque, NM

Deschutes County Library
507 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR

Salt Lake City Public Library
209 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT

Laramie County Library
2800 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY

LIBRARIES

Lost River Community Library
126 South Front Street
Arco, ID

Idaho State Library
325 West State Street
Boise, ID

City of Burley, Public Library
1300 Miller Avenue
Burley, ID

Coeur d'Alene Public Library
201 Harrison Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID

City of Emmett, Public Library
275 South Hayes
Emmett, ID

City of Gooding Public Library
306 5th Avenue, West
Gooding, ID

Consolidated Free Library
8385 North Government Way
Hayden Branch
Hayden Lake, ID

City of Homedale, Public Library
125 West Owyhee
Homedale, ID

Ketchum Public Library
411 Spruce Avenue North
Ketchum, ID

University of Idaho Library
Rayburn Street
Government Documents
Moscow, ID

Moscow Public Library
110 South Jefferson
Moscow, ID

Ola District Library
11475 Ola School Road
Ola, ID

Clearwater Memorial Library
402 Michigan Avenue
Orofino, ID

Idaho State University
741 7th Avenue
Documents Department
Pocatello, ID

Salmon Public Library
204 Main Street
Salmon, ID

Shoshone Public Library
211 South Rail Street
Shoshone, ID

Twin Falls Public Library
434 2nd Street, East
Reference Desk
Twin Falls, ID

Caliente Public Library
120 Depot Avenue
Caliente, NV

Carson City Public Library
900 North Roop Street
Carson City, NV

Elko Public Library
720 Court Street
Elko, NV

Las Vegas Public Library
833 Las Vegas Boulevard, North
Las Vegas, NV

Brigham City Library
20 North Main Street
Brigham City, UT

Cedar City Library
136 West Center
Cedar City, UT

Delta City Library
76 North 200 West
Delta, UT

Logan City Library
255 North Main
Logan, UT

Marriott Library
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Lincoln County Public Library
Alamo Branch
First West Street
Alamo, NV

Lincoln County Public Library
Pioche (Main Branch)
Number 1 Main Street
Pioche, NV

Pahrump Public Library
2101 East Calvado Boulevard
Pahrump, NV

Smokey Valley Library District
Hadley Circle
Round Mountain, NV

Tonopah Public Library
171 Central
Tonopah, NV