

Eureka County
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May 12, 1995

U.S. Department of Energy
c/o Lois Smith
TRW Environmental Safety Systems
2650 Park Tower Drive, Suite 800
Vienna, VA 22180

RE: Section 180(c) Comments

Dear Ms. Smith:

Eureka County has reviewed the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Notice of Inquiry (NOI) concerning the implementation of Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended, which appeared in the Federal Register of January 3, 1995. Eureka County has the following comments with respect to the provision of technical and financial assistance.

Eureka County is one of ten counties which have been designated by the Secretary of Energy as "affected" pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The DOE has identified a potential rail corridor (the "Carlin route") for shipping nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. The proposed route would bisect Eureka County. In addition, Eureka County could be affected by alternate routing for highway transportation of nuclear waste.

As a rural county served by volunteers who are first responders, fire fighters, and medical personnel, we believe DOE should implement Section 180(c) so that training is available in the communities where first responders reside. It is difficult for local emergency services volunteers to receive training due to the distance from training sites, taking days of time from work, and accessibility of training.

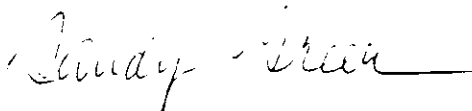
Among the alternatives outlined in the NOI, Eureka County favors an OCRWM grant program. DOE has used such a program for disbursement of funds to the "affected units of local government" (AULGs). The direct funding of local governments through DOE's current program with AULGs could serve as a model for 180(c) funding of local governments. Any implementation program must include a mechanism for local governments to receive direct funding without matching fund requirements.

For preparation purposes, funding must be made available at least three years prior to the onset of shipments through a community. DOE should be prohibited from shipping spent fuel or high-level radioactive waste through a community that has not been provided timely Section 180(c) assistance unless the community waives that right.

Pending legislation in Congress creates timing problems for implementation of this assistance program. Because of the uncertain future of this legislation and the possibility of shipments beginning as soon as 1998, DOE should begin to budget for these costs and include funds for 180(c) in its budget requests to Congress.

Transportation is a key element of the nuclear waste management system, and it is essential that DOE ensure that local communities will receive adequate resources to protect their safety. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the implementation of 180(c) and to have input in the emergency response planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Green". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sandy Green
Project Coordinator

cc: Leonard Fiorenzi
Abby Johnson
Steve Campbell, PIC
Representatives of AULGs
Joe Strolin, NWPO