The ***Future Land Use Committee*** proposes that the SSAB put forth a recommendation that the future use of the Piketon reservation never include the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel (High-Level Radioactive Waste).

Background

In December 2008, the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management issued a "Report to Congress on the Demonstration of the Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel."[1] The report was prepared pursuant to directions accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 that called on the Department to develop a plan for taking custody of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) currently stored at decommissioned reactor sites. The Act specifically requested that DOE focus its search for a storage site on "existing federal sites" and sites that had "volunteered to host Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) facilities." Although the report concluded that under the current ***Nuclear Waste Policy Act,*** the DOE can not take possession of SNF for interim storage, the DOE recommended that Congress move quickly to change the relevant federal law in order for DOE to proceed with the development of a consolidated interim storage site.

The DOE Report specifically recommended that Congress establish an "expedited siting process ... to allow for the timely implementation of an interim storage facility" and that the new legislation forbid "Presidential or Congressional involvement in approval of the site," as well as any other type of veto. In short, the proposed changes in the *Nuclear Waste Policy Act* would place the decision to site an interim storage facility solely in the hands of DOE.

Discussion

Since Piketon is both an "existing federal site" and was included among the eleven GNEP sites, and because our SSAB is tasked with making recommendations on future use of the site, the Portsmouth EM-SSAB believes that it has a responsibility to the larger community we represent to oppose consideration of Piketon for any future interim storage of spent nuclear fuel.

It is well understood by our SSAB and the communities we represent that the selection of Piketon for a consolidated interim SNF storage facility would disrupt and delay the completion of DOE's current remediation and Decommissioning and Decontamination (D&D) plans for the site. Such a facility would not bring needed jobs or economic development to the area. On the

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[1] See Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Report to Congress on the Demonstration of the Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, DOE/RW-0596 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Energy, December 2008).

contrary, the storage of SNF at Piketon would effectively prohibit the revitalization of our area.

Recommendation

1. The Portsmouth EM-SSAB recommends that the future use of the Piketon site never include the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel (High-Level Radioactive Waste).