

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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March 1, 2000

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NRC

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The Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudication Staff

On December 21, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) posted a notice in the Federal Register (Volume 64, Number 244, pages 71331-71333) requesting comments by March 22, 2000, on the NRC's intention to amend regulations to require licensees to notify Indian tribes in advance of certain shipments of high-level radioactive waste, including spent nuclear fuel. On behalf of our 210 constituent tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest national tribal government advocacy organization in the country, requests the NRC to extend the comment period by 90 days.

Tribal governments exercise jurisdiction over a broad range of activities which may impact their peoples, lands, and resources. The rights of Indian nations includes notification of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste shipments through their lands. The deliberation of issues within tribal government processes can require more time than other entities including state and local governments. In the interest of ensuring tribal government notification and inclusion in this process, the NCAI believes that an extended period for comments is necessary.

On behalf of Indian Country, your favorable response to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert Holden, NCAI Nuclear Waste Program Director. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Masten
Robert Holden for
Susan Masten,
President

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