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March 17, 2000

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The Secretary
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE

Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudication's Staff

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 71-73**
(64FR71331)

Dear Secretary,

Please accept these comments for the posted Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notice in the Federal Register Volume 64, Number 244, pages 71331-71333, NRC's intent to amend its regulations to require licensees to notify Indian tribes in advance of certain shipments of high level radioactive waste, including spent fuel.

Comments:

First, I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, as an Environmental Protection Program employee and also, as a tribal band member. Our reservation is located in Northern Wisconsin.

Our people have lived on this reservation since the 1700's; the most abundant resource is our water, which to us is also the lifeblood of Mother Earth. Without it, life will not exist. Therefore, it is of most significance to protect not only water resources but that of land, air, plants, animals and most of all our people- and future generations. Keeping that in mind, any/or all preventable measures must be taken to eliminate any potential damage or destruction to these resources. I believe by supporting the above-mentioned amendment will help us fulfill our responsibility to a certain level.

Currently, our Tribe is in the process of amending/revising codes that will not allow any radioactive or other hazardous wastes to be transported through our reservation!

Therefore, the amendment should include following all tribal nation regulations as well, which may include no transporting of such wastes through their reservation boundaries or at least which may require

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notification to the licensees. Furthermore, our Tribe holds treaty rights in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota and would like to see that these lands our protected as well.

Respectfully,

Dee A. Mayo, Tribal Natural Resource Department, Environmental Protection Program, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Member & mother of three-tribal members