

DOCKETED
USNRC

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

August 20, 2007

✓ Secretary

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Chief, Rulemaking & Adjudications Staff
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

VIA EMAIL: hearingdocket@nrc.gov
VIA FACSIMILE: (301) 415-1101

RE: DOCKET NO. 70-143

Dear Sir or Madam:

With this letter, I request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission holds a public hearing in person within the community that Nuclear Fuel Services harms.

I believe I have legal standing to request such a hearing because I live just over the mountain from NFS, and drink Jonesborough city water which comes from the Nolichucky River which NFS pollutes.

My wife and I and pets live on the Nolichucky River where NFS dumps radioactive heavy metals like uranium, thorium and plutonium – not to mention non-radioactive chemical poisons -- from its “normal” operations, as well as from spills and other accidents, secret or otherwise. Our home is the first to receive water from the Jonesborough Water Treatment Plant which pumps water to public drinking water customers from the Nolichucky River. Jonesborough’s water intake pipe is downstream of NFS’s operations in Erwin and the pipe is also downstream of NFS’s firing range in Washington County.

My interests are adversely affected by the NRC’s Confirmatory Order Modifying License No. SNM-124 because the Order does not at all address the impact on my drinking water that the secret March 6, 2006 spill had, or how the NRC is going to protect my and my family’s health through the Order. I want the full Commission to tell me flat out, to my face, that NRC’s tinkering with NFS’s “configuration management” at the failed BLEU process will make Nolichucky River water safe to drink again. But, in the meantime, I’m keeping my reverse osmosis water filter in good operating condition.

I am a mechanic and have my own repair shop. You know, if I accidentally spilled 35 quarts of used motor oil or transmission fluid in my shop, and let it sit there for who knows how many days while it seeped into the ground or washed into the Nolichucky, the Government would have jumped on my case in a heartbeat. I’d have been fined, no doubt. And, with a shop as small as mine, I’d probably have to go out of business if I had an accident like that.

But no fine for a big business like NFS? That offends me and adversely affects my interests as a small businessman because of the Government’s unequal application of the law. After NFS threatened the health and safety of thousands of residents by its sloppy operations, and after NFS could have poisoned

the air and drinking water for thousands more Erwin, Jonesborough, and Greeneville residents if that spill had gone critical, the company "will not be cited" for any violations? That's an outrage, and I want the NRC to explain at the Public Hearing here why this menace to our community is getting off like a bandit.

I also live down the road from NFS's firing range where the company trains its rent-a-cops. Your Confirmatory Order says that two of NFS's "security officers willfully failed to conduct a vehicle search". Yet your Confirmatory Order says nothing about how training the company's rent-a-cops affects the safety, health, and welfare of the community. I can tell you now that the noise from the shooting, detonations, and the use of high-powered ordnance destroys my peace, and I do not feel safe outside or inside my house or shop. My interests are adversely affected by this Confirmatory Order which does not address the noise and stray-bullet hazards that I suffer whenever NFS's firing range is being used. The Confirmatory Order also does not fix the problem of water pollution threats from the lead, gunpowder and mercury that NFS's firing range pollutes Dry Creek and the Nolichucky River with.

My wife and I have been suffering from the noise of high-powered rifle fire and from what sounds like mortar or bomb blasts from NFS's firing range for over a decade now. All this, they say, to make the NFS plant safe. But whose protecting the general public from NFS's own rent-a-cops? After they've been driving me and my wife and my dogs crazy for years with unbearable noise and fear, they fail to conduct vehicle searches? They shoot and detonate at NFS's firing range even when school buses are going past, and the NRC thinks this company can develop a "safety culture"?

Come to Tennessee for that hearing and you'll get to live in my shoes for a couple of days and then you'll know that NFS could care less for the health and safety of its neighbors. Why should they care to ever develop a safety culture? They're an LLC feeding at the taxpayer's trough, they're protected by the nuclear police state, and the Tennessee Legislature gave them "shoot to kill" powers — no questions asked.

And you think your Confirmatory Order is going to make me safe from NFS's failed BLEU project and its firing range? Tell me face-to-face at a public hearing here in Tennessee if you really believe it.

Sincerely,



R. Feher

cc: Director, Office of Enforcement
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VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

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RF/lcm