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Submitter Info

Comment:	Federal Register Document Number 2016-17024 - Excess Uranium Management Thank you for taking comments on this sensitive issue. While I am not an expert in uranium or nuclear technologies, I have taken an increasing interest in our energy infrastructure as a societal building block. This is my informed opinion on the subject at hand. Down-blending HEU seems quite a waste of resources. This material is unique and has specific qualities which can only be replicated with great effort, and causing unease among other nations. I would ask

	that the modest amounts of HEU be maintained for future civilian use at levels not less than 19.75% enrichment, which is well below weapons grade. Of course all NRC and IAEA guidelines for maintaining this material should be followed. While nuclear power seems stagnant inside the USA, it is growing worldwide. A few months ago nuclear capacity worldwide was 385 GWe. It is expected to reach 862 GWe by 2040, and likely increase from there due to various national, financial, national security, and climate change issues around the globe. www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/current-and-future-generation/plans-for-new-reactors-worldwide.aspx Within the next 10-25 years there will undoubtedly be an energy revolution with the introduction of Small Modular Reactors. The HEU under consideration will make excellent starter fuel for these innovations. Personally I would be open to sharing HEU with other nations - provided there is a Memorandum of Understanding and the use is approved and monitored by the IAEA. Currently in the UK there is a competition for SMR development which has over 30 entries from the European Union, Canada, China, and the United States. The UK wishes to identify a leading new nuclear technology which can be factory built and exported from the UK. They seem quite determined in this matter. www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-modular-reactors-competition-phase-one www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-UK-government-launches-SMR-competition-1803165.html Of course it is quite possible that multiple US companies will be ready to build and test an advanced nuclear technology within 4-10 years. It would be such a shame to not have any HEU available at that time. This would of course depend on the NRC, GAIN, INL, & ORNL participation and approval. But with so many groups working on SMR, I feel it would be foolish to think none of them will succeed. https://neutronbytes.com/advanced-reactor-development-projects/ Thank you for your time. Respectfully, Christopher Bergan, Iowa City *
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