

GARY LOCKE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

January 16, 2004

The Honorable Spencer Abraham, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am writing to bring to your attention two strong concerns expressed by the Citizens for Medical Isotopes (CMI) regarding the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) in Hanford.

The first concern is that the Department of Energy (DOE) is proceeding with decommissioning activities relating to the FFTF. In his February 2003 decision, U.S. District Court Judge Edward Shea found that deactivation and decommissioning are not connected activities, and that the DOE may continue its deactivation work. However, Judge Shea also stated that the DOE must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to deciding on a decommissioning plan. The CMI argues that the recently signed "start to finish" contract eliminates any meaningful distinction between deactivation and decommissioning. By moving ahead as anticipated, the DOE will, in effect, preclude options such as a *no action* alternative in a decommissioning EIS. In keeping with the spirit of Judge Shea's decision, I hope the DOE would not engage in any irretrievable actions prior to the completion of the decommissioning EIS.

The second issue pertains to CMI's forceful argument for a commercial role for the FFTF in the areas of food security, homeland security, and medical isotope production. In light of recent developments, I urge you to consider convening a cabinet-level meeting to discuss whether such roles could effectively be performed by this facility. I believe that DOE, Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Agriculture all should be represented at such a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Locke".

Gary Locke
Governor

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Richard Hastings
Congresswoman Shirley Hankins
Claude Oliver, Citizens for Medical Isotopes

