

0055299

WILLIAM M. RYAN

June 23, 2001

315 WAYCROSS ROAD * WILMINGTON, DE 19803

302-655-3553

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Dennis Faulk
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, WA 99352

Re: DOE/RL-2001-09, Rev. 0

Dear Mr. Faulk,

I am strongly in favor of the implementation of **Alternative #3** as set forth in the reference EE/CA Report.

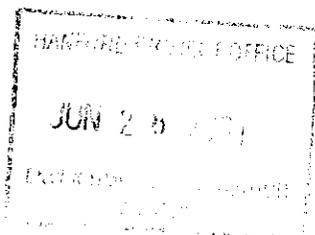
As a physicist, I was employed by DuPont, in 1944 at the Clinton Laboratories as an instructor of the operating staff of the B Reactor. Later, during start up, I was a Senior Supervisor/Operator of the B Reactor. Therefore, I believe I am among those who are uniquely qualified to express an opinion relative to the preservation of the B Reactor. Because of my conviction, last year after an absence of over half a century, I visited Hanford with my son to make sure that he had the opportunity to see this historic site.

The historic importance of the B Reactor goes beyond even its initial use as the source of plutonium for the atomic bomb used at Nagasaki. I believe future generations will view the B Reactor primarily, as the first full scale, practical, demonstration of a new source of energy. The entire nuclear power industry all over the world is the outgrowth of the success of the B Reactor. I fear our descendents would not forgive us if we were to allow the site of such an important demonstration, to be destroyed.

This is not to minimize the fact that, as many believe, the use of the atomic bombs shortened WWII and saved many lives, both Japanese and Allied. The peacetime uses of atomic energy, which does not release "greenhouse gases", may in the long term save even more lives. These aspects of the historic importance of the B Reactor site further justify its preservation.

Sincerely,

W M Ryan



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