

July 6, 2001

To: The United States Environmental Protection Agency
The United States Department of Energy – Richland Washington

Re: Preferred Alternate #3

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Dear Sirs:

EDMC

Please consider my comments, as to my association with the 105B Reactor, and my experience in the military, only as it applies to the symbolism of the 105B, for the future generations of loyal Americans.

The EI Dupont de Nemours Company was my employer, at the time that the company was requested to join the Manhattan District of the Army Service Forces – Corps of Engineers.

I was assigned to the 105B Reactor (we termed it The Process Block), as it was growing out of a huge hole in the middle of the desert. I was with the 105B as one of the Senior Engineers, and later Principal Engineer until it was readied for operations.

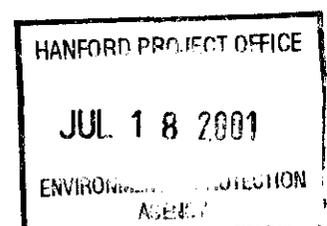
At that time, I felt that I had completed my assignment, and although I had been assigned to operations, the war was continuing on both fronts, I felt an inadequacy. I did not wish to be compelled to explain, to future generations of my family and friends, why I had not served in the military forces, when my country was at war.

I knew that my position could be filled by an older person of non-military qualifications, and I had received ROTC Training in college. I expressed my feelings and my convictions to my superiors and to Colonel Matthias.

~~I was subsequently released to active duty. My assignment was COWESFRON-ABC. In understandable terms – Commander of the Western Sea Frontier – Advanced Base Cargo. One needs no further explanation or interpretation to understand and realize what those orders meant.~~

Now please refer to my first paragraph request and consider my position or status objectively, and only as it applies to hundreds of thousands of other men and women, all sharing the same candidacy for the same casualty list.

The only uniqueness in my case was that I had viewed “both sides of the coin.”



I had seen a crucible of unprecedented organization and structuring of the military, to lead the cooperation and dedication of:

1. Scientific minds from not only the United States, but also from nations that were now our enemies, all theorizing and composing an equation, that only six years before had been declared, by Albert Einstein, as "an equation with no foreseeable solution."
2. Thousands of engineers, some pondering theory, some attempting to design theory, and others dedicated to the creation of that theory in a hostile environment, hotter than the "Valley of the Sun," winds wilder than the "Bermuda Triangle" and sands more contaminous and bitter than the "Sahara."
3. All supported by tens of thousands of loyal and patriotic superintendents and craftsmen.

This was a crucible of military might, under the skillful and persuasive leadership of General Leslie Groves, the dedication of the scientific minds of the world, the determination of the engineers in interpreting and designing and creating theory. Plus the patriotic support of superintendents and craftsmen.

This crucible was formed and molded into an emblem of peace that ended the most horrible and tragic war in the history of mankind, and saved an estimated four hundred thousand American lives.

If all Americans of this generation had an awareness, as this American does, of the symbolism of the 105B Reactor, as the unlocking of one of God's secrets to save our world, as our forefathers had dreamed as they authored our Constitution and our Bill of Rights, then every patriotic American would wish for the 105B Reactor to be placed in a premier position with Gettysburg and the Liberty Bell.

Submitted with All Humility,



F.W. Michael