

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Tribal Participation in the Advance Notification Program

**Comment On:** NRC-2024-0075-0006  
Information Collection: Tribal Participation in the Advance Notification Program

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## General Comment

I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation — and more importantly, the expansion — of the Tribal Participation in the Advance Notification Program. It is unacceptable that Tribal Nations must complete extra paperwork and training just to be informed when irradiated nuclear fuel or radioactive waste is transported across their sovereign territories. This should not be a matter of voluntary “participation” — it should be automatic and unconditional.

Tribal governments, like state governments, have a constitutional and moral right to be fully informed about high-risk activities that may impact the safety, health, and environment of their communities. The current policy, which treats Tribes differently from states, reflects outdated thinking and continues a pattern of systemic exclusion that has historically put Indigenous peoples at greater risk.

The NRC has a responsibility not only to protect public safety but also to uphold principles of equity, transparency, and government-to-government respect. In the context of transporting hazardous radioactive materials, information is not optional — it is essential. Tribes deserve the same level of notification and consultation as states, without barriers, extra conditions, or bureaucratic hurdles.

I urge the NRC to amend its policy so that all federally recognized Tribal Nations automatically receive advance notice of radioactive shipments through or near their lands — no opt-in process required. This would be a meaningful step toward restoring trust, promoting environmental justice, and recognizing Tribal Nations as the sovereign and capable governments they are.