

December 8, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-98-239 - POST-DISPOSAL
CRITICALITY RESEARCH

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation of Option 1 which ceases further post-disposal criticality research at low-level waste disposal facilities. The staff should continue development of the guidance on emplacement criticality as directed in the SRM on SECY-98-010. The guidance should also address the need to limit significant quantities of unusual moderators in low-level waste disposal units based on currently available information, as stated in this paper.

As directed in the SRM on SECY-98-010, the staff should also continue to investigate whether emplacement criticality requirements should be an item of compatibility for Agreement States and inform the Commission of its findings.

The staff should consider, to the degree appropriate, the recommendations concerning mitigative factors in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory reports when developing this guidance and when performing license reviews of low-level waste disposal facilities.

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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