

1. In 1988, NRC was involved in discussions and correspondence with DOE, the State of Washington, and the Yakama Nation concerning whether high-level radioactive tank waste could be chemically separated, and one stream then classified as 'incidental waste.' Upon petition, NRC made certain determinations on this issue. Can NRC once again be asked to make technical and legal determinations on the process being proposed for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, which involves the same separation and waste classification issues?
2. NRC is moving towards utilizing risk assessment as part of its licensing process. Is it possible that NRC could conduct a risk assessment of DOE high-level waste storage and disposal, so those risks could be compared to commercial spent fuel storage and disposal?
3. In what ways may NRC provide technical assistance to the Yakama Nation under its trust responsibility, outside of the formal regulatory framework? Is it possible to arrange a meeting to follow up on the May 10 telephone conversation with yourself, Janet Kotra, Rosetta Virgilio, and other NRC staff?
4. What are the implications of policy statements by Democratic leadership that Yucca Mountain will not open under their watch, given the possibility that DOE will recommend to the President that the site be considered for licensing next year? Would rejection of the site necessitate further amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act?
5. What are the likely trends in regulating radiation exposure to the public? (BEIR V estimated an additional lifetime risk of fatal cancer of about 3.8×10^{-4} for constant exposure to a dose level of 25 mrem/year over a period of thirty years. NRC's general decommissioning standard is 25 mrem/year. This exposure level translates to a fatal risk of 1 per 2,500, which is much higher than the general chemical standard of 1 per 1,000,000) Is it possible that NRC will develop standards which account for Native American lifestyle and diet patterns, as a separate critical population?

Chip & Chet -
Thanks so much for your participation. I can pull these questions back out of the computer.
We would appreciate your response to these questions so I can advise our policy maker.
- Russell -
6.27.01