



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 13, 1998

Dr. B. John Garrick, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

**SUBJECT: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE COMMENTS ON NRC'S DRAFT  
10 CFR PART 63 AND REVISION 0 OF THE TOTAL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT ISSUE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT**

Dear Dr. Garrick:

I am responding to your letter of September 3, 1998, to the Chairman, providing the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (hereafter the Committee's) observations and recommendations on Draft 10 CFR Part 63 and Revision 0 of the Total System Performance Assessment (TSPA) Methodology Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR). I appreciate the Committee's approval of the staff's approach taken in the draft of Part 63 and recommendation for releasing the proposed rule for public comment. The staff believes it has incorporated the Committee's input on Part 63 development through previous letters on relevant topics and interactions at committee meetings.

The Committee supports the regulatory flexibility provided in the draft of Part 63 (e.g., Part 63 provides the U.S. Department of Energy flexibility in design and analysis in complying with an overall performance objective) and has made specific recommendations for technical guidance to be developed by the staff in support of Part 63. As the Committee is aware, staff is working on the initial stages of guidance for its regulation through development of the TSPA methodology and other IRSRs. Consistent with the Committee's recommendations, the staff is revising the IRSRs to be consistent with Part 63 and is examining a variety of analysis methods and techniques to ensure transparency of the demonstration of compliance with the overall performance objective and multiple barriers. As these efforts continue, the staff will seek the Committee's input via presentations to the Committee.

The staff appreciates the Committee's observations and recommendations on the regulatory framework for geologic disposal of high-level radioactive waste and looks forward to future interactions with the Committee on this topic.

Sincerely,

  
L. Joseph Callan  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
SECY

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