

September 27, 1994

Mr. Mitchell D. Young  
Box 99  
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

SUBJECT: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S VIEW ON THE DISPOSAL OF  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN SALT BEDS AND MINES

Dear Mr. Young:

This is in reply to your letter of August 15, 1994, in which you asked for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's views on the disposal of radioactive waste in salt beds and mines. At present the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is conducting site characterization exclusively at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, which is volcanic tuff.

This is in accordance with amendments Congress made to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982. In addition to making Yucca Mountain as the site for site characterization, the amendments also prohibit DOE from conducting site-specific activities at any other site. Therefore, consistent with the NWPA, as amended, DOE is not investigating any media other than volcanic tuff.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of 10 CFR Part 60 "Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories." If you would like further information on waste disposal, including earlier investigations of sites, I would suggest you contact DOE at the following address:

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Acting Director  
Office of Program Management and Integration  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20585

Sincerely, *JS*

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
High-Level Waste and  
Uranium Recovery Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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