



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 14, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Gary M. Holahan, Director  
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Regulation

Bill M. Morris, Director  
Director of Regulatory Applications  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Charles E. Rossi, Director  
Safety Programs Division  
Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data

Anthony S. Hsia, PCC Coordinator

FROM: Margaret V. Federline, Acting Director *M. V. Federline*  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT BRANCH  
TECHNICAL POSITION ON THE USE OF EXPERT ELICITATION IN THE  
HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROGRAM

Consistent with the Commission's direction, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) announced the availability of the subject Branch Technical Position (BTP), for public comment, in the *Federal Register*, on February 28, 1996. This milestone was achieved following extensive coordination among the cognizant Commission offices and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). Based on the comments received from your respective staffs, during the internal review, several substantive changes were made to the draft document including acknowledging that the BTP applied only to the high-level waste program.

During the public comment period, comments were received from the U.S. Department of Energy, the State of Nevada, and the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. After preliminary consultation with OGC, the staff concluded that no substantial changes to the BTP would be necessary given the public comments, although there will be a few minor modifications.

In accordance with the Commission's direction on the need to keep the cognizant offices informed of progress in the development of this guidance, DWM's responses to public comments are provided for your information. (The staff's proposed responses to the comments can be found in the attachment, designated Appendix D in the BTP.) DWM management, OGC, and the NRC technical editor have begun their respective reviews of the staff's responses to the public comments. If you or your staff have any comments on the staff's proposed responses, your input is requested by July 15, 1996. The staff is scheduled to brief the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste on the final BTP on August 21, 1996, and time will be needed to coordinate any final wording with

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G. Holahan, et al.

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If you have any questions or would like to discuss the issues in more detail, please contact Norman Eisenberg (415-7285) or Mike Lee (415-6677).

Attachment: As stated

cc: C.W. Reamer/OGC  
N.K. Stablein/EDO

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