

May 30, 1995

Mr. Lake Barrett, Deputy Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Barrett:

This letter is in response to your letter dated May 11, 1995, that forwarded the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) report entitled, *Comments on the Draft Paper "Underground Supercriticality from Plutonium and Other Fissile Material" written by C. D. Bowman and F. Venneri (LANL)*, UCRL-ID-120990 COM. Consistent with the description I provided you in my letter on May 1, 1995, of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's planned review of the extant Los Alamos National Laboratory and Savannah River Laboratory reports on the potential for underground supercriticality, we will include the aforementioned LLNL report as part of our ongoing review of this issue. We are still planning to complete this review in June 1995 and to forward review comments, questions and issues to the U.S. Department of Energy for consideration, disposition, or resolution.

If there are any questions related to this subject, please contact me on (301) 415-7800 or Dr. Michael Bell on (301) 415-7286.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Malcolm R. Knepp

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

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Letter to L. Barrett dated: May 30, 1995

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