



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 28 1989

OFFICE OF
WATER

Mr. John T. Greeves
Acting Director
Division of Low Level Waste
Management and Decommission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Greeves:

I am enclosing for your review the draft Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document entitled, "Suggested Guidelines for the Disposal of Naturally Occurring Radionuclides Generated by Drinking Water Treatment Plants." This report is preliminary in nature, and represents the work of several Offices within EPA, including the Offices of Drinking Water, Solid Waste, Policy Analysis and Radiation Programs. We are now seeking comments of DOE, NRC, and national organizations concerned with radiation protection, as well as selected State water supply and radiation control agencies. Subsequent to that review, we intend to issue the revised guidelines for public comment in the latter part of 1989.

Water treatment processes are known to separate naturally occurring radionuclides from water, and the waste residuals thereby produced have presented to States and local jurisdictions a significant problem since there are currently no Federal standards or guidelines which apply to the disposal of these wastes. Federal guidelines are seen as an appropriate measure at this time in order to minimize public exposure to, and future health risks from, water treatment wastes containing naturally occurring radionuclides. This document presents guidelines based upon criteria and general principles used in existing Federal standards which cover the disposal of radioactive wastes generated by other industries.

Your timely review of the enclosed document is requested. Please forward comments to me by April 28, 1989. If you have any questions in this regard, contact Mr. Marc Parrotta of my staff at (202) 382-3035.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Cotruvo, Ph.D., Director
Criteria and Standards Division
Office of Drinking Water

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