



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

ACNWR-0069

PDR

April 30, 1992

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPEDITED RULEMAKING: PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA
FOR ON-SITE STORAGE OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

During its 42nd meeting, April 22-24, 1992, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste met with the NRC staff to discuss the expedited rulemaking on "Procedures and Criteria for On-Site Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste." On the basis of these discussions, we offer the following comments.

This is an important rulemaking and we strongly endorse its objectives. The Commission should clearly indicate to potential host States that this regulatory effort not be interpreted as a retreat by the Commission from its well-established position that long-term storage of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) is not an acceptable substitute for disposal. It is also vital that efforts to site, design, construct, and operate LLW disposal facilities continue as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Low-Level Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985.

Although the rule addresses the post-1996 timeframe, we are concerned about the more immediate post-1992 timeframe. Indications are that the acceptance of radioactive waste at all existing low-level waste disposal sites, except Hanford, may be terminated by the end of 1992. If this proves to be a reality, interim storage of LLW will become necessary. We recommend that NRC and Agreement State inspectors be encouraged to follow such operations closely, being especially alert to note any possible indications of unsafe conditions and operations. As the NRC staff moves ahead in developing this rule, we urge that its impacts on small waste generators, such as universities, hospitals, and research institutions, be evaluated.

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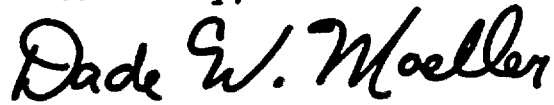
The Honorable Ivan Selin

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We will continue to follow progress on this effort with interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Reference:

Preliminary draft of "On-Site Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission Paper and Rulemaking," received April 15, 1992
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