

MAY 15 1991

EDO 6502

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MEMORANDUM FOR: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director
for Operations

FROM: B.J. Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management

SUBJECT: NRC VIEWS ON U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS ON THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PROJECT (WIPP)
(EDO 0006502)

The Division of High Level Waste Management (HLWM) has reviewed Representative Kostmayer's questions and DOE's responses concerning WIPP and has a comment on DOE's response to question 17c. The last sentence of that response could be misleading. Although NRC does not require plans for alternate disposal of waste retrieved from a high level waste repository, 10 CFR 60.21(c)(12) specifies that DOE's license application (which obviously pre-dates any determination by DOE that retrieval of waste is necessary) include "a description of plans for retrieval and alternate storage (emphasis added) of the radioactive wastes should the geological repository prove to be unsuitable for disposal of radioactive wastes." It is logical to assume that plans for alternate storage would of necessity include the location of the alternate storage site(s).

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

B. J. Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management

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