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NOTE TO: T. C. Johnson, Section Leader  
Materials Section  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Waste Mangement

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FROM: E. A. Wick  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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SUBJECT: COMMENT ON PAGE 82 OF HOUSE REPORT 98-755 (ENCLOSURE: MEMO,  
KAMMERER TO COMMISSIONER, "FY85 APPROPRIATION COMPARATIVE TEXT")

The DOE is directed to develop a facility that is capable of performing destructive evaluation of canisters of glass. The purpose would be to characterize the canisters of melted glass to confirm the quality of the glass right at PNL's facility. If this could be done, DOE would intend to send canisters from a full scale vitrification facility to a licensed repository without creating destructive examination capabilities at a later date.

Comments

We agree that DOE should have the capability to destructively evaluate the glass that it will melt at PNL. Otherwise the melting capability is useless because the product that is developed cannot be evaluated.

However, it will also be necessary to destructively evaluate a representative sample of the canisters of melted glass from full-scale vitrification facilities. This will be necessary to demonstrate that the glass produced by the full scale facilities is representative of the glass produced by PNL and on which the glass melting process for the full-scale vitrification facility will be based.

Therefore, the destructive evaluation capability at PNL (unless it can be used also for evaluation of canisters from the full-scale facility) will not substitute for the need for this capability at the full-scale vitrification facility or at the repository site. We think a destructive evaluation facility at the process development facility (PNL) and at the full scale vitrification facility are both required.

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E. A. Wick  
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