



Texas Department of Health

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July 17, 2003

Mr. Elmo Collins, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-4005

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment Related to the Core Laboratories, Inc., Alternate
Disposal Request to Inject Well-logging Waste in Class II Disposal Wells
Docket No. 030-30429

Dear Mr. Collins:

I am writing in response to your June 2, 2003 letter to Mr. Roger Mulder, Interim State Liason Office, State Energy Conservation Office. Your letter requested comments on the above referenced draft environmental assessment. We offer the following comments:

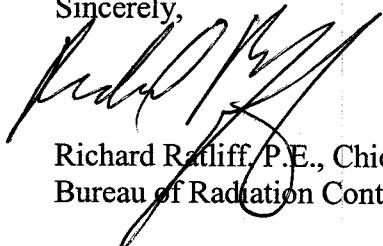
In order to implement the request in Texas, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) would need to promulgate rules. This is a statutory requirement that can be found in Chapter 401, Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 106(a). We note that your draft assessment references Texas License No. L03855, Provision 16, allowing disposal of "sand out" wastes in Class II nonhazardous disposal wells. A recent review of this provision indicates that this authorization was inappropriate and the TDH has initiated proceedings to clarify that, in the absence of rulemaking, such disposal is not allowed.

Our rules and licensing policy have been to permit storage for decay for sand out wastes. In licensing the use of radioactive tracers, we ask for procedures in handling the waste from these operations. These licensees have the opportunity of applying for the "300-day half life" rule that allows disposal of short-lived radionuclides in certain landfills.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Alice Rogers, P.E., at 512-834-6688 extension 2006.

Sincerely,



Richard Ratliff, P.E., Chief
Bureau of Radiation Control

cc: Richard Ginn, RCT
Ruth McBurney
Gary Smith