

MAR 29 1983

MEMORANDUM TO:

Jeane Cook

Consumer Affairs Officer Office of Public Affairs

FROM:

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director

Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT:

UPDATE OF HANDOUT ON HIGH-LEVEL WASTE

Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed the handout on high-level wastes and have marked up the attached copy as necessary to reflect enactment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in January, 1983. The following paragraph should be inserted on page two as indicated:

On January 7, 1983, Congress enacted legislation defining the goals and structure of a program for permanent deep geologic repositories for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and unreprocessed spent fuel. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act represents Congressional endorsement of the general thrust of the program under development by the Federal government over the last seven or eight years. Under the Act. DOE must select a site according to a procedure involving detailed characterization of several sites and review by the President, Congress, State and Tribal governments, NRC and other Federal agencies. DOE must submit a license application to NRC for construction authorization. Prior to the submission of the application, State and Tribal governments will have an opportunity to raise objections, which can in turn be overridden by two houses of Congress. The Act specifies that NRC shall issue a decision on the license application by January 1, 1983 or 4 years after receiving the DOE application, whichever occurs later, and contemplates the availability of a second repository approximately three years after the first. The Act also contains provisions for a test and evaluation facility and for a study on monitored retrievable storage.

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The attachment entitled "Licensing Procedures for Disposal in Geologic Repositories" summarizes the 10 CFR Part 60 procedural regulations, and is accurate as long as those regulations remain unchanged. However, the staff is currently reviewing the regulation to identify any changes required to conform to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Until such changes are made, this portion of the handout should contain a note that it is being reviewed to determine changes required due to the Act.

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director Division of Waste Management

Enclosure:
Licensing Procedures for
Disposal in Geologic Repositories

DISTRIBUTION

WM s/f NMSS r/f JSurmeier MKearney DMattson RBrowning

*See previous concurrence

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The attachment entitled "Licensing Procedures for Disposal in Geologic Repositories" summarizes the 10 CFR Part 60 procedural regulations, and is accurate as long as those regulations remain unchanged. However, the Executive Legal Director is currently reviewing the regulation to identify any changes required to conform to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. You may wish to consult ELD regarding any necessary changes in this portion of the handout.

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director Division of Waste Management

Enclosure:

Licensing Procedures for

Disposal in Geologic Repositories

DISTRIBUTION

WM s/f

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JBunting

RBrowning

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