

BUTLER

- 1 -

July 15, 1988

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for transmitting the letter from Mr. Robert W. Butler regarding his proposed "Eternal Storage Vault" for radioactive waste. Earlier this year, Mr. Butler sent us his unsolicited proposal for an "Eternal Storage Vault." In our enclosed response, dated May 5, 1988, we explained to Mr. Butler that supporting such a proposal as this does not fall within the mission of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Although we can review such plans as Mr. Butler's, we are not permitted to assist in the development of the technology we may one day have to license. Consequently, we could not comply with Mr. Butler's solicitation for funding his research.

In this same response, we suggested that he send his proposal to the Department of Energy (DOE), which is responsible for the research and development of such radioactive waste disposal technologies.

We have forwarded Mr. Butler's letter to the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management for their consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Henn

for Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
Letter to R. W. Butler,
dated May 5, 1988

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RMacDougall
88/06/

HLWM/HLSE
KKalman
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cc: Ralph Stein, DOE

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(Signed) T. A. Rehm

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