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LPDR WM-10(2)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: DOE'S PLANS TO DISPOSE OF DEFENSE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE (HLW)
CURRENTLY IN TANKS AT HANFORD

During recent discussions, the question of when DOE planned to begin disposal of HLW currently stored in tanks at Hanford was raised. DOE's draft EIS on the Hanford Defense Wastes (DOE/EIS-0113) did not specifically indicate when DOE planned to dispose of the HLW, but did indicate that additional research and development work would be needed to verify disposal methods before final disposal could be carried out.

The disposal alternatives considered in DOE's draft EIS range from in-place stabilization and disposal of all tank waste to the removal of most (98 percent by activity) of the waste from the tanks for disposal in the commercial geologic repository. DOE has estimated that the additional research and development needed might be complete by CY1993. Thus, 1993 would be the earliest that final disposal of the waste could begin. It is more likely that final disposal would not occur until several years after 1993.

(Signed) Robert M. Bernero

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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