



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 15 1992

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Billy Joe Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Mail Stop 4H3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. *Joe* Youngblood:

As I believe you are aware, the Department of Energy (DOE) has undertaken a number of tasks to provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with technical analyses which support DOE's comments on EPA repromulgation of a high-level waste disposal standard. Please find enclosed a copy of the first draft of this work. Since our staffs have been cooperatively evaluating many of the these issues, such as the three bucket assessment methodology, we would appreciate an NRC staff review of the DOE material. Please call me at (703) 308-8777 when you have had an opportunity to determine when such a review might be completed.

Sincerely,

J. William Gunter
J. William Gunter, Director
Criteria and Standards Division, ORP

Enclosures *M. Murphy*

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

MAY 12 1992

Ms. Margo T. Oge, Director
Office of Radiation Programs (ANR-458)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Oge:

We are enclosing preliminary results on the tasks requested by EPA on January 7, 1992, to provide technical assistance related to the repromulgation of EPA's standard for disposal of high-level and transuranic radioactive waste, 40 CFR Part 191. This information is provided to you as part of the process of EPA's staff working with us as the evaluations proceed.

This effort was initiated in March and, as expected, some of the tasks could not be completed for this transmittal. The information for each task represents approximately six weeks of effort. In order to support the early May deadline requested by EPA, it is necessary to provide this preliminary information as several important analyses have not been completed. We believe these preliminary results should prove useful in moving forward the discussions between EPA and DOE.

Please review the enclosed material and provide your comments for our consideration while we continue to work on the tasks. As additional results are available, the information will be provided to EPA. The Department of Energy point of contact is Edward Regnier, Chief, Waste Management Unit. He can be reached at (202) 586-5027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond P. Berube".

Raymond P. Berube
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environment

Enclosure