

January 31, 2003

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES

SURVEY OF PROJECTED NEED FOR DISPOSAL OR STORAGE OF LOW-LEVEL WASTE AND PROJECTED DISPOSAL CAPACITY (STP-03-011)

We are interested in knowing the extent of need and interest among States for an assured isolation facility (AIF) that would provide long-term, centralized storage of low-level radioactive waste, including material regulated under the Atomic Energy Act, and naturally-occurring and accelerator-produced material (NARM). The enclosed tables are our preferred format for information but if it is more convenient to use another format, please feel free to provide the information in the most complete form you can. There are no formulas in the tables.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail your answers including the enclosed completed tables^{*} within 30 days from the date of this letter to: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Paul Goldberg, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop T-9C24, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me on 301-415-2325 or the individual named below.

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Office of State and Tribal Programs***

Enclosure:
As stated

^{*}This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/04. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 6 hours. Forward any comments regarding the burden estimate to the Information and Records Branch (T-6F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information.

(State of Pennsylvania below)

Survey of Projected Need for Disposal or Storage of Low-Level Waste and Projected Disposal Capacity

Background: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) directed the NRC staff to proceed with a rulemaking plan that explores interest in the assured facility isolation (AIF) concept for the storage of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and provides a foundation for a Commission decision on whether to develop a rule. The rulemaking plan should include Agreement State interaction and participation (SRM-SECY-02-0127, 9/5/02, ML022480322). This decision was made in conjunction with the Commission's approval of the staff's response to a letter from the State of Ohio requesting NRC's views on a proposed Ohio regulation for licensing an AIF. (See 9/12/02 letter to Robert Owen, ML022560082.) Accordingly, the NRC staff and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., Suggested State Regulations Committee on Part L, chaired by Robert Owen, are jointly developing basic information for the projected need for disposal or storage of LLW and projected disposal capacity.

Survey: For purposes of this survey, the AIF would be open to multiple generators. We exclude mixed radioactive and chemical waste from this inquiry. We realize that not all this information is readily available even for past activities and that any projections for the period of ten years are very uncertain, so we would appreciate rough estimates or ranges, with any qualifications you think appropriate. For purposes of this survey, we do not define an AIF other than to describe it as an engineered facility that would provide long-term, centralized storage of LLW to multiple generators. The facility could be designated as: (1) Exclusively for storage, with no option for disposal at the AIF; (2) For storage, with the expectation of disposal of the waste at the AIF; or (3) For storage, with the option of disposing of waste at the AIF.

Questions:

1. What interest would your State have in participating in the development of, or promoting and regulating the private development of, an AIF, a centralized facility for storing waste for multiple generators for an extended time? Do you have a particular definition for such a facility? Are you aware of any interest on the part of industry in pursuing development of an AIF? Do you consider this likely?

State of Pennsylvania

At present, we are NOT interested in participating in the development of, or promoting and regulating the private development of an AIF facility. Also, Pennsylvania is not an agreement state and therefore, it does not have the authority to regulate such a facility. We have not received any feedback from the industry in pursuing the development of an AIF. We currently do not consider this to be likely in PA.

For ten years, beginning in 2003:

1. How many cubic feet and how many curies of low-level waste material in Classes A, B and C and combined non-Atomic Energy Act radioactive waste (ARM, NORM, TENORM-discrete sources only) from your State do you expect to require disposal? If you don't have a breakdown by category, please provide a cumulative figure. See Charts
2. How much disposal capacity do you expect to be available to your State for the various categories of waste? See Charts