

FR NOTICE/SP-004

JUL 31 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR: David L. Meyer, Chief
Regulatory Publications Branch
Division of Freedom of Information
and Publication Services

FROM: John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

SUBJECT: FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE AVAILABILITY OF
STAFF POSITION SP 60-001, "CLARIFICATION OF THE 300-1000
YEARS PERIOD FOR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE CONTAINMENT OF
HIGH-LEVEL WASTES WITHIN THE WASTE PACKAGES UNDER
10 CFR 60.113(a)(1)(ii)(A)"

Enclosed is a Federal Register notice which announces the availability of the
subject staff position. The original and five copies are provided in accordance
with SECY procedures.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

Enclosure: As stated

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OFC :HLEN *raw* :HLEN *raw*:HLPD :NLWM :NLWM :OGC *AK* :

NAME:RWeller:bl:JBunting :JLinehan :BYoungblood:RBrowning :JWolf :

DATE:06/29/90 :06/29/90 :06/10/90 :06/ /90 :06/ /90 :06/13/90 :

OFC :NMSS :NMSS : : : : :

NAME:GArlotto :RBernero : : : : :

DATE:06/ /90 :06/ /90 :06/ /90 : : : :

III. Conclusion

Inasmuch as the waste package will be assessed by the NRC staff on the merits of its design and its anticipated performance in the repository setting, the staff can give credit, if warranted, for waste packages designed to provide containment in excess of 1000 years. In other words, the staff would not arbitrarily assume in its compliance assessment for the waste package and engineered barrier system that the waste package will fail at 1000 years. The staff recognizes the licensee's option to do more than just meet the Commission's requirements (i.e., the minimum standards) and that, when warranted, the staff's assessments should reflect those design enhancements. In this regard, the purpose of the natural and engineered barriers subsystem requirements is to add confidence that the overall EPA containment requirements will be met. One way of minimizing uncertainties related to compliance with the EPA standard is to propose a waste package design for containment well in excess of 1000 years and the DOE could factor this design into the performance assessment which will be documented in its license application.

For the reasons cited above, the 300 - 1000 year containment period specified in 10 CFR 60.113(a)(1)(ii)(A) is not to be viewed as the waste package lifetime but rather the minimum period for which substantially complete containment of radionuclides within the waste package must be provided.

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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"Part" removed.

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| NAME : | RWeller | JBunting | | JYoungblood | REBrowning | RLBallard |
| DATE : | 7/25/90 | 7/ /90 | 7/ /90 | 7/25/90 | 7/25/90 | 7/ /90 |
| OFC : | <i>HLPD</i> | NMSS | NMSS | | | |
| NAME : | JLinehan | GArlotto | RBernero | | | |
| DATE : | 7/25/90 | 7/ /90 | 7/21/90 | | | |

7/10 #1

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|-----------------|------------|-------------|---|---|---|
| OFC : HLPD | : NMSS | : NMSS | : | : | : |
| NAME : JLinehan | : GARlotto | : RMBernero | : | : | : |
| DATE : 7/ /90 | : 7/ /90 | : 7/ /90 | : | : | : |