



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 26 1987

The Editor
Seattle Post-Intelligencer
P.O. Box 1909
Seattle, Washington 98111

Dear Sir:

A report in your August 8 edition (page D1) suggests that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reached certain conclusions regarding the suitability--or lack thereof--of the Hanford site in Washington for a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste. This is not the case.

The NRC staff has taken no position regarding the suitability of the Hanford site and will not be in a position to do so until the Department of Energy has completed a site characterization program. The suggestions to the contrary in your August 8 edition reflect the personal views of one member of the NRC staff and one NRC contractor regarding certain specific technical matters. These personal views are part of the public record and were available in our Public Document Room.

Further, contrary to your report, the NRC staff does not expect to receive an application from the Department of Energy for construction authorization for a high-level radioactive waste repository until the mid-1990's, not the end of 1988.

Sincerely,

RE Browning
Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure 2

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PDR WASTE PDR
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OFFICIAL CONCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION RECORD

MEMORANDUM FOR: V. Stello
FROM: H. Thompson
SUBJECT: IODINE-129 GROUNDATER DATA AT THE HANDORD, WASHINGTON SITE
DATE: SEP 25 1987

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