



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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December 18, 1987

Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

Enclosed are 12 copies of the Department of Energy (DOE) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), "Disposal of Hanford Defense High-Level, Transuranic, and Tank Wastes," DOE/EIS-0113. The FEIS was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA guidelines (45 FR 20694, March 28, 1980, as amended).

A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 1, 1983. The Draft EIS was published on April 11, 1986, and was followed by a 120-day comment/review period during which 243 comment letters were received. In addition, public hearings were held in Seattle, Spokane, and Richland, Washington and in Portland, Oregon. This FEIS incorporates the comments received on the Draft EIS, DOE's responses, and modifications made in response to these comments.

This FEIS provides environmental input into the selection and implementation of final disposal actions for high-level, transuranic (TRU), and tank wastes located at the Hanford site, Richland, Washington, and into the construction, operation, and decommissioning of waste treatment facilities that may be required in implementing waste disposal alternatives. Also, an evaluation is presented to assist in determining whether any additional action should be taken for waste that was disposed of at the Hanford site prior to 1970 as low-level waste.

In DOE's preferred alternative, disposal activities would proceed on double-shell tank wastes, strontium and cesium capsules, and retrievably stored TRU wastes. Decisions would be deferred on disposal of single-shell tank wastes and further remedial action for TRU-contaminated soil sites and

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pre-1970 buried suspect TRU-contaminated solid wastes until additional information is obtained on waste characterization, retrieval methods, and performance of near surface disposal systems.

The Record of Decision is expected to be available in February 1988.

Sincerely,

Carol Borgstrom
/S/

Carol M. Borgstrom
Acting Director
Office of NEPA Project Assistance

Enclosure: FEIS (12 copies)