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JUL 27 1983

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

Dear Mr. Browning:

COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments on the NOI to prepare an EIS on selection of a disposal strategy for certain radioactive defense wastes at the Hanford Site. On May 1, 1983, the comment period closed, but comments received to date are being considered in development of the Implementation Plan (IP) to prepare the draft EIS.

We have reviewed your comment on the onsite stabilization and isolation alternative in which the majority of radioactive wastes would be stabilized and isolated in place. A determination will be made in the HDW-EIS for the waste that is appropriate for in place stabilization at Hanford. There is a potential to reclassify tank waste, due to the processing and radionuclide separation activities which have occurred in the past. Thus, some of the previously designated high-level wastes associated with the tanks at Hanford may be designated as either transuranic waste, or low-level waste, and be disposed accordingly. If in place, near surface disposal of high-level waste is determined to require licensing under Section 202(4) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, then appropriate NRC involvement will take place during program implementation.

We will be pleased to provide you with a copy of the draft EIS when it is issued.

Very truly yours,

John J. Schreiber

John J. Schreiber, Director
 Waste Management Division

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cc: Goetz K. Oertel, DP-12/HQ

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