

JWMHT 8106

OCT 07 1981

WM Record File 106

WM Project 16

Docket No.

PDR ✓

LPDR ✓

Dr. W. L. Fisher
Director, Bureau of Economic
Geology
University Station, Box X
Austin, TX 78712

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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Bill:

You may recall that in September, 1980 and again in May of this year, visits were made to the Bureau by myself and a technical group from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The visits were part of a review of the investigations in Texas being done by the Department of Energy in connection with a possible repository for high-level radioactive waste.

Since the last visit, further progress has been made by the Commission in formulating the regulations under which a repository would be licensed. I am writing to describe this activity.

The regulations will form part 60 of title 10 in the code of federal regulations (10 CFR 60). On February 25, 1981 subparts A, B, C and D of 10 CFR 60 were published in final form. These cover the licensing procedures. On July 8, 1981 subparts E, F, G and H were published as a proposed rule. These cover, among other things, the proposed geoscience criteria by which the suitability of a repository site would be determined.

Copies of both documents are enclosed, along with a technical rationale for subpart E.

I particularly wish to invite your attention to the proposed rule of July 8, which is open for written comments or suggestions by the public until November 5. You may find special interest in Subpart E-Technical Criteria. Here a number of geologic, hydrologic, geochemical and seismic requirements and conditions are presented.

It might also be noted that the Commission requests comments on certain topics in the proposed rule, as mentioned in the following portions of the text:

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If there are any questions on this matter, please write or telephone me (301-427-4177).

The assistance of the Bureau in connection with the NRC visits to Texas is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert J. Wright
Senior Technical Advisor
High-Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: Dr. Milton Holloway, Director
Texas Energy & Natural Resources

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