

THAD COCHRAN
MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 30, 1984

Mr. Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Palladino:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have received from Mr. Donald Finn.

I hope that you will offer this request for information regarding the availability of public documents your full consideration and advise me of your reply.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator

TC/jw
Enclosure

WM Record File

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410.6

WM Project 16

Docket No. _____

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Distribution:

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Senator Thad Cochran
Senator John C. Stennis
Congressman Trent Lott
Congressman Wayne Dowdy

Gentlemen:

The Richton salt dome will probably be recommended for so-called "site characterization" early in 1985 by the U. S. DOE as a nuclear waste repository.

The NRC has announced that it will then open a local public document room in the Richton area where it will deposit copies of all NRC reports and evaluations relating to DOE's activities at the site as well as copies of draft decisions and staff memoranda.

It would be most useful if you determine if the NRC might be willing to deposit two or three copies of each document so that one could be kept on file in Richton and the others circulated via interlibrary loan to State offices in Jackson, County offices in New Augusta, and to libraries throughout the State where interested citizens might be able to review them.

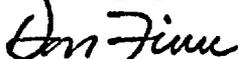
As more and more members of the public become aware of the transportation aspects of nuclear waste disposal there be a growing interest statewide, especially in our Institutions of Higher Learning and environmental groups, in learning more about the details of the proposed disposal program.

For example, it now is become clear that the DOE plan is to ship spent fuel assemblies in casks to the repository, open them up and disassemble them, "consolidate the rod/pins", repack them in canisters and store them underground.

When the assemblies are opened by remote control, fission gases and tritium leaks out. The DOE expects it can recover those items by freezing the exhaust ventilation flow and dropping them out for disposal (in the repository I assume). Good luck! This appears in ONWI 537, a subcontractor report which was published last week. So far our State does not have a mechanism for tracking these reports, but we certainly need to get them out in the public hands if we can!

Your assistance would be appreciated,

Sincerely yours,



Donald F. X. Finn

Box 1623, Natchez MS 39120 442-1601

