

3103.6/RJW/10/05/81/O/D

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WMHT 3103 <sup>1/21.3</sup>

**WM- 10**  
**PDR**  
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dr. Vaughn E. Livingston, Jr.  
State Geologist  
Geology and Earth Sciences Division  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Dr. Livingston:

You may recall that in July, 1980 a visit was made to your office by myself and a technical group from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This was part of a trip to review the investigations at the Hanford Reservation being done by the Department of Energy in connection with a possible repository for high-level radioactive waste.

Since that visit, substantial 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 your office in connection with the NRC visit to Hanford is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

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

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