

REPORT ON CONTROLLING THE DISPOSITION OF SOLID MATERIALS
OCTOBER 2003 - MARCH 2004

BACKGROUND

The material in this Semiannual Report is intended to provide information on the status of rulemaking efforts, generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) progress, regulatory guidance development, and other related factors pertinent to decision-making during the past 6-month period.

Up-to-date information on documents prepared, opportunities for stakeholder input, and links to other related documents can be found at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) website on controlling the disposition of solid materials, (www.nrc.gov/materials.html), (under "Key Topics," link to "Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials").

1. Actions Related to Rulemaking

In accordance with the direction in the October 25, 2002, Staff Requirements Memorandum, the staff is conducting an enhanced participatory rulemaking on disposition of solid materials. Activities, during the past 6 months, in support of this enhanced participatory rulemaking include:

- The annual Nuclear Safety Research Conference was held on October 20-22, 2003. Topics covered in the information session included NUREG-1640, Survey Guidance, and enhancement to the RESRAD Dose Modeling Codes. NUREG-1640 is a particular technical basis document that provides a complete description of calculations and their results estimating potential annual doses, normalized to a unit concentration, to an individual following the clearance of specific materials.

2. Development of the GEIS

- The staff has prepared a Scoping Summary Report, which contains a concise summary of the public comments received regarding the alternatives and environmental impacts the GEIS should address. The report was distributed and publicly available in April 2004.
- In March 2004, NUREG/CR-6682, Supplement 1 ("Summary and Categorization of Public Comments on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials") was published. This report provides a digest of the public comment letters and e-mails (over 2,600) that were received from the 2003 scoping comment period and May 21-22, 2003, public workshop.
- In a January 29, 2004, letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepted NRC's invitation (August 2003 letter) to participate as a cooperating agency in NRC's preparation of the GEIS.

- In a December 18, 2003, letter, U.S. Department of Energy accepted NRC's invitation (August 2003 letter) to participate as a cooperating agency in NRC's preparation of the GEIS.
- On November 17, 2003, the contractor submitted the first preliminary draft GEIS. The second preliminary draft was submitted to NRC staff for comment soon after the contractors received staff comments on the preliminary draft on February 11, 2004. The cooperating agencies received the second draft GEIS as well and submitted comments in April 2004. Staff is currently working on addressing and responding to the comments submitted by the cooperating agencies.

3. Development of Regulatory Guidance

- A consolidated guidance writing team has been meeting to develop guidance for the implementation of a rule on controlling the disposition of solid material.

4. International Activities

- The 17th Meeting of the Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) was held on March 22-26, 2004, in Vienna, Austria. After extensive discussion and modification of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Draft Safety Guide 161, "Application of the Concepts of Exclusion and Clearance," the draft document was approved by WASSC and the Radiation Safety Standards Committee and will be submitted to the IAEA's Commission on Safety Standards, for endorsement for publication.