



UOL.5 (6)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 1984

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Ruckelshaus:

In January of 1983, the Science Advisory Board was asked to review the Agency's proposed environmental standards for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, high-level and transuranic radioactive wastes (40 CFR 191). We have completed our review of the proposed standards, and are pleased to forward to you our report, which has been reviewed and approved by the SAB Executive Committee.

The High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Subcommittee received the technical basis of the proposed standards for review after they had been published in the Federal Register and after both risk assessment and risk management decisions had been made and incorporated into the proposed standards. As charged, the Subcommittee concentrated its review on the scientific and technical issues. However, given the timing of its review in the rulemaking process, the Subcommittee found it virtually impossible to separate scientific and technical evaluations from matters of policy, since they are so interdependent. Our consideration of and recommendation to relax the societal objective (1000 cancer deaths in 10,000 years) by a factor of ten exemplifies this point. In any event, as responsible scientists and concerned citizens we feel it is essential that we provide you with a comprehensive report of our findings.

Our job has, in no small way, been greatly helped by the cooperation and assistance we have received from the Office of Radiation Programs, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. If I can answer any questions, or should you wish further review, I would be pleased to brief you on the contents of the Subcommittee's conclusions and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Herman E. Collier, Jr.
Chairman, High-Level
Radioactive Waste
Disposal Subcommittee

9401050045 931116
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

ATTACHMENT 5