

July 19, 2004

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

**GAO REPORT: LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE: DISPOSAL AVAILABILITY
ADEQUATE IN THE SHORT TERM, BUT OVERSIGHT NEEDED TO IDENTIFY ANY FUTURE
SHORTFALLS (GAO-04-604) AND NRC COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT (STP-04-056)**

For your information, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) June 10, 2004 report is available with NRC comments on the GAO draft report. The report, "Low-Level Radioactive Waste: Disposal Availability Adequate in the Short Term, but Oversight Needed to Identify Any Future Shortfalls," (GAO-04-604) is available at the GAO's web site:
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04604.pdf>.

The GAO recommends that: "The Congress may wish to consider directing NRC to report if LLRW disposal and storage conditions change enough to warrant congressional intervention. GAO also recommends that DOE halt dissemination of its on-line LLRW database as long as it has internal control weaknesses and other shortcomings. NRC disagreed that it was the most appropriate entity to prepare this report. DOE disagreed that it should halt dissemination of LLRW information despite known problems with its database. GAO remains firm in its suggestion to the Congress and in its agency recommendation."

The NRC response letter and its enclosure (dated May 25, 2004) from Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, to the draft GAO report is available at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/gao-responses/2004/nazzaro-05252004.pdf#pagemode=bookmarks>

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me on 301-415-2325 or the individual named below.

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STP-04-056

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