



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

www.state.sd.us/denr

SEP 29 2004

September 23, 2004

Mark A. Satorius, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-4005

Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OF FORMER BURIAL SITE AT AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

Dear Mr. Satorius:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the provided draft Environmental Assessment (EA). It is the understanding of South Dakota's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff that Augustana College has requested that a former radioactive material burial site located at its Sioux Falls, South Dakota, campus be released for unrestricted use. Augustana College would not be required to remediate the site if the NRC approves the license amendment request.

Since the NRC has determined that the remediation of the burial site is not a practical option, DENR staff would like to request that the NRC consider including proof of Augustana College's long-term institutional controls over the site into the EA. The request is in response to staff comments that have revealed the concern about future development of what is now "...a grove of crabapple trees on the east side of the Gilbert Science Center near the corner of 33rd Street and Summit Avenue."

The provided EA indicates that "...the remediation of the site would most likely have a minimal radiological impact on site workers and members of the public." To prevent the unintentional disturbance of the site, DENR staff requests that the NRC ensure that Augustana College place a notation on the Deed of Property or some other institutional control indicating that the property has been used for the disposal of radiological material by burial in the site soils and disturbance of the material is prohibited unless the radiological risk in disturbing the material is no longer a concern..

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Vonni Kallemeyn, DENR Waste Management Supervisor at (605) 773-3153 or myself.

Cordially,


Rick Lancaster
Ground Water Quality Program
(605) 773-3296