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May 18, 1984

SECY-84-87A

POLICY ISSUE **(Information)**

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: NRC REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S (DOE) MISSION PLAN FOR THE CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose: To inform the Commission of ongoing and proposed staff actions and the schedule to review and comment on the DOE Mission Plan.

Issue: Section 301(b) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-425) directs the Secretary of Energy to submit a Draft Mission Plan to the Commission for comment in advance of its submittal to Congress. Volumes I and II of the Draft Mission Plan were received on May 8, 1984 and our review is under way. The Act specifies that the Mission Plan will provide an informational basis sufficient to permit informed decisions to be made in carrying out the repository program and the research, development and demonstration projects required under the Act. The Act also directs the Commission to specify with precision any objections concerning the Plan in comments to DOE.

Discussion: The NRC staff reviewed and commented on a preliminary draft of Volume I of the Mission Plan earlier this year (SECY-84-87). Volume I provided the Department's program policies, strategies, and schedules for development of spent fuel and high-level waste repositories, Federal interim storage, monitored retrievable storage, and transportation. Volume II, which we are now reviewing for the first time, covers information specifically required in Section 301(a) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

DOE requests that comments be received by July 9, 1984 to allow sufficient time to digest the comments before submitting the Final Mission Plan to Congress. We anticipate that DOE will brief the Commission on the

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5-18-84

The Commissioners

- 2 -

contents of the Draft Mission Plan in the near future. As our review progresses, we will keep the Commissioners informed of the development of NRC staff comments. On completion of our review, formal staff comments will be forwarded on or about June 20, 1984 in a Negative Consent Paper to the Commission for their consideration.



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