UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Mr. Robert Cloud
1546 Sangers Lane
Staunton, VA 24401

Dear Mr. Cloud:

I am responding to your letter of August 5, 2009, to Commissioner Dale E. Klein of the NRC. You described to Dr. Klein your idea of disposing of nuclear waste by sealing it in steel spheres, covering them with lead, and dropping them in the deepest part of the ocean, and asked if Dr. Klein thought the idea might be patentable.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management is charged with developing a disposal path for high-level waste (assuming you meant spent fuel from nuclear power plants), so your question about patenting a new disposal method should be addressed to that office. You should be aware, however, that deep-sea disposal of nuclear waste was considered in the past, but it is specifically outlawed by several international conventions that have been ratified by the U.S. Congress.

Thank you for your comments on the NRC's Information Digest. We are glad you found it useful.

Regards,

/RA/

David McIntyre
Office of Public Affairs