

DSI-5

(32)

**From:** webadmin <webadmin@nrc.gov>  
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**Date:** 12/2/96 11:15am  
**Subject:** Strategic Assessment (Forms submission)

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Number of the Issue Paper: 5  
Topic: 1 (omissions)



Steven Garry sent the following comment via the WWW server:

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Direction Setting Initiative # 5 Low Level Waste

Florida Power Corporation recommends the following:

Option 1 and Option 2. Assume a Greater Leadership Role

Yes, the NRC should take a stronger role in advocating Low Level Waste disposal facilities. This should be done by providing the States with better interpretations of the NRC site characterization criteria. In general, we believe that the States are performing site characterizations and license reviews above and beyond the intent of the NRC criteria. The NRC could provide support by reviewing and supporting the license applications and indicating that the applications more than meet the intent of the NRC criteria, providing the States with more certainty and support in approving the license applications.

The NRC should address the public's failure to understand the inherent safety of these disposal facilities. The NRC have historically been unwilling to make simple statements that the public can understand, like "the NRC has determined that this facility is safe." Instead, the NRC make noncommittal statements on safety by saying that the facilities are in compliance with NRC regulations and standards. This leads the public to conclude there is no safe level of radiation, which develops inherent mistrust.

Option 3. Retain Current Program

The NRC role should be increased as described above.

Option 4. Recognize Progress and Reduce Program

Acknowledged by *e mail* card 12/3 4/96  
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No, the NRC should not reduce its role.

#### Option 5. Transfer LLW Program to EPA

The NRC should not transfer the LLW program to EPA, since this would introduce regulatory uncertainty and complicity whilst new facilities are under development and hence would further delay development of facilities.

#### Option 6. Accept Assured Long-Term Storage

Assured Long-Term Storage (for decay) is a viable option for some waste streams and should be recognized and encouraged. Entombment should also be allowed when a strong relationship between an Agreement State and a licensee has been established providing institutional controls and a funding mechanism to guarantee long term institutional controls.

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