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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

Docket No. 50-166

SEP 7 1979

University of Maryland
ATTN: Dr. F. Kerr
Acting Provost of the
MPSE Division
College Park, Maryland 20742

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is Information Notice No. 79-21, "Transportation and Commercial Burial of Radioactive Material," which provides information on packaging and disposal of radioactive material.

Sincerely,

for Robert T. Carlson
Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:
1. IE Information Notice No. 79-21
2. List of IE Information Notices Issued in the Last Six Months

cc w/encls:
Dr. R. Belcher, Reactor Director
Dr. F. Munno, Chairman, Nuclear Engineering Group
Dr. J. S. Toll, President

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ENCLOSURE 1

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

IE Information Notice No. 79-21
Date: September 7, 1979

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCIAL BURIAL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

On July 10, 1979, the Governors of the Agreement States of Nevada, South Carolina, and Washington notified NRC Chairman Hendrie of the serious and repeated disregard for the rules governing the shipments of low-level radioactive wastes to their burial facilities. The problems causing the Governors' concern may be summarized as contaminated packages; improper loading of packages which results in unnecessary radiation exposure; packages containing liquids when liquids or free-standing water are not authorized to be buried; leaking packages; improper labeling of packages; and improper paperwork for shipments.

Recently, you should have received either IE Bulletin No. 79-19 or 79-20 on this subject. The attachments to this Notice provide information regarding the regulatory requirements for the packaging, transportation and disposal of radioactive material. The requirements for packaging and transport referenced herein are applicable to shipments of all radioactive material.

The enclosed summary of radioactive waste burial criteria defines the current burial-site license and State requirements on waste form and packaging. A summary of the requirements for transportation is in the attached DOT publication, "A Review of the DOT Regulations for Transportation of Radioactive Materials." The attachments are intended only as a convenient reference; they are neither a substitute for the actual regulations nor a copy of the burial site license or other burial site documents. The DOT regulatory requirements can be found in 49 CFR Parts 170-179 (Oct. 1, 1977). The NRC requirements are in 10 CFR Part 71.

To conduct your waste disposal operations properly you must comply with NRC and DOT requirements for packaging and transportation, and the waste packaged for eventual disposal at any of the three operating waste-burial sites must be in a form authorized in the particular burial-site license and State requirements. To assure that the latter requirements are met, you should coordinate your waste disposal activities with the waste collection companies and/or the waste burial site operators. The sites receiving wastes for burial are operated either by the Nuclear Engineering Co., Inc. (502-426-7160) or Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (206-827-0711).

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

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