



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

TIC

Docket No. 50-294

SEP 12 1979

Michigan State University  
ATTN: Mr. Stephen H. Terry  
Assistant Vice President  
For Business and Finance  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Gentlemen:

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

Sincerely,

*James G. Keppler*  
James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosures:

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

cc w/encls:

Dr. J. T. Carrick, Reactor  
Supervisor  
Central Files  
PDR  
NSIC  
TIC

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

September 7, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-21

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 enclosures 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 enclosed DOT publication, "A Review of the DOT Regulations for Transportation of Radioactive Materials." The enclosures 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).

Questions about licensing requirements for NRC packages can be addressed to the NRC's Transportation Branch (301-427-transport requirements can be addressed of DOT (202-426-2311). Questions about Notice can be addressed to the app. op Part 20, Appendix D.

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

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