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Mr. Ragnwald Muller
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - H
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

U.S. NUCLEAR REG. COMM.
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

Dear Mr. Muller:

POOR ORIGINAL

Following are my comments on the meeting of the Subcommittee on Waste Management, ACRS, on 18-19 September in Washington.

1. Far too much time will elapse before the waste materials are placed in an underground repository if the present schedules of investigation and research are followed. I believe that we know enough now to pursue an active program of site selection which will yield a socioeconomic solution to the problem. Given the remarks of DOE on the 19th, I conclude that Hanford, with its basalt environment at depth, offers the only presently feasible, technical and political, site. To this end I would call your continued attention to the proposal for canister and placement by Stone and Webster using geologically compatible materials.
2. The criteria for a geological repository, although not yet received from EPA, are so clear from the common sense standpoint, as are those for a canister, that design of a geological repository should proceed without a delay.
3. The failure to utilize the capabilities of industry both in research and design is major weakness in the waste management effort. I cannot conceive of a good reason for excluding the capabilities of the steel industry in the design and construction of a NiFe canister, not to mention International Nickel, now Inco. Ltd. nor of Corning Glass in the design of a glass medium.
4. I was very pleased to see that NRC has been developing a capability in engineering geology - geotechnical engineering. Now these people must be supported and allowed to pursue their duties and responsibilities where ever the path leads them so that they can effectively monitor the site investigation process and later, design and construction and finally the operation of the repository, which is in a geologic environment. The use of capabilities in other Agencies will be a great help in their work and should be encouraged.

Sincerely yours,

Shailer S. Philbrick
Shailer S. Philbrick
Consultant, ACRS

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F.S. If the geologic medium is not completely safe, all the canister and packing available will not insure complete separation from the biosphere indefinitely. *SEP*

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