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June 26, 1979

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TO: Dade W. Moeller

FROM: Martin J. Steindler *mjs*

SUBJECT: Comments on 6/13/79 Memo from F. Arsenault on RES, The Waste Management Research Program

ACRS
ANL
CT-1137
PDR 9/13/79

A brief review of the titles listed in the subject memo yielded specific comments that are included in the attached copy. It is difficult to evaluate a large research program by only reading the titles of the projects.

The picture obtained from the R&D Program is an enlarged effort. The effectiveness of any program is strongly influenced by factors such as management, evaluation, timing, coordination with identified needs and establishing of priorities. These factors are not visible in the R&D document. It may well be that an early subcommittee meeting in which we could help clarify these fundamental aspects would make a greater contribution than suggesting this or that detailed change in specific R&D Programs.

Licensing-related models that are to be used for predictions need to be certified as applicable to the real situations. There is still too little evidence that such model qualification is being done. Studies on long-term care of burial grounds and fixation of contained waste are not in progress but should be. I assume that results of studies on mill tailing dispersion, resuspension etc. are to be available before rules governing these are to be issued; increased emphasis may be desirable to meet early scheduling.

Finally, owing to limited funding, priorities for programs should be clarified as soon as possible. I tend to focus on near-term problems when funding is low. This implies early attention to mill tailings, burial grounds and D&D. The priority topic warrants more extensive discussion.

MJS:lj

Attachment

bcc: (w/o attachment)
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