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70-157

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Nuclear Engineering Program  
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September 4, 1979

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Karl V. Seyfrit, Director  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Dr. Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76012

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to IE Bulletin No. 79-19. The Nuclear Reactor Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin generates very little low level radioactive waste. For the most part, the majority of our waste consists of rubber gloves, smear and blotting papers and other items used in the handling of irradiated samples. Other wastes would be in the form of irradiated samples which have decayed to levels which emit less than 5 mr/hr on surface contact.

Our wastes are deposited in a plastic bag in lined steel containers and are routinely (about every six months) picked up by the Radiation Safety Office of the University of Texas at Austin. The Radiation Safety Office has the responsibility of collecting all radioactive wastes from all over the University and that office in turn utilizes a waste collection contractor for ultimate transportation and disposal.

Since this facility does not package or transport low level radioactive waste, we feel that we are exempt from items 1-8 of IE bulletin No. 79-19.

In response to questions 1-3 of IE Bulletin No. 79-19:

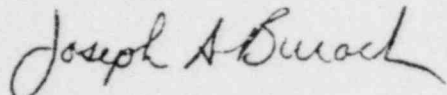
- 1) Waste was picked up by the Radiation Safety Office twice in 1978 and once in 1979. Total volume was less than 5 cu. ft.
- 2) It is estimated that less than 5 milli curies of waste were picked up by the Radiation Safety Office. The major isotopes were not identified.

Mr. Karl V. Seyfrit  
September 4, 1979  
Page Two

3) Less than one pint of liquid waste was generated. It was not solidified.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding our action to this bulletin please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Burack  
Supervisor, NRL

cc: NRC  
Office of Inspection  
& Enforcement  
Division of Fuel Facility and  
Materials Safety Inspection