



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20545

MAR 13 1980

Docket No.
27-39

MEMORANDUM FOR: A. Bert Davis, Chief
Fuel Facility and Material Safety Branch, I&E

FROM: R. Dale Smith, Chief
Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF THE SHEFFIELD LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

In March 1979 people from NMSS, I&E, and ELD visited the Sheffield site and observed significant trench subsidence and erosion. One sinkhole was ten feet deep and eight by twelve feet in area. Such surface deterioration can result in significant amounts of surface water entering trenches and causing increased leaching of radioactive waste. Since the surface deterioration is considered to be associated with the thawing that occurs in the spring, we request that you inspect the site when the thaw occurs, which we assume will be within the next four weeks. It is important that any deterioration be independently assessed and documented, and repaired promptly by the licensee because of the potential for increasing radionuclide migration from the site.

Please advise us by March 21, 1980 of your plans for performing the requested inspection. If you have any technical questions about this request contact Gale Turi (427-4433). In addition to your usual inspection report, please telephone us as soon as possible regarding your findings on surface deterioration and general site conditions. We appreciate your help in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Dale Smith".

R. Dale Smith, Chief
Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: R. Paul, Region III

8004020 132