



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
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Office of the Administrator



PR-60

APR 18 1980

The Honorable John F. Ahearne
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-60⁽⁴⁾
(45 FR 31393)

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

In response to your letter of March 12, 1980, concerning the proposed rulemaking related to safe disposal of radioactive wastes, we have no information that would modify the conclusions of the Report to the President by the Interagency Review Group (IRG) on Waste Management, TID-29442 March 1979. As a result of the IRG study, we consider it to be within the capability of the Nation to solve the waste problems.

Our internal review indicates that the subject of near-term disposal of nuclear waste lies outside of NASA's principle areas of expertise. Accordingly, we believe that it would be proper for us to defer to the judgment of others on the more immediate issues identified in your letter. For the longer term, as the Commission is aware, we are conducting an assessment of space concepts for nuclear waste isolation in support of DOE studies of alternatives in nuclear waste management. On the basis of these studies, we believe one technologically feasible future option may be permanent isolation of nuclear wastes in deep space.

We hope that you find this information useful.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Frosch
Administrator

Approved by: 5/13/80 mdy

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