



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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POOR QUALITY PAGES

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

Re: Comments on Proposed Rules for NRC Licensing Procedures  
for Nuclear Waste Repositories

Mr. Secretary:

These proposed rules are intended to present requirements applicable to the Department of Energy in submitting an application for a license for a nuclear waste repository. The proposed rules also set forth provisions for consultation and participation in the license review by State Government. With reference to the State participation, it is stated, "the Commission has undertaken a thorough review of the matter and now proposes a more extensive informal involvement during early phases of site characterization and a deferral of formal proceedings until site characterization has been completed." The term informal involvement appears to be somewhat out-of-step with previously stated ideas that target States would be actively involved by being assured of having the opportunity to engage in the decision making process. This idea is even stated in these proposed rules under the Site Characterization Review section. We object to the term informal involvement, especially, if the Federal government (including The President) is sincere in its many statements relative to the States' role of "consulting partners" to the Federal government in matters concerning nuclear waste repositories.

We fully agree with the concept of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as well as the States, having the opportunity to consult in and review the site characterization studies to help insure adequate data and safeguards are obtained before a site is finally selected.

It is stated in the Scope of Proposed Rule section, "The technical criteria against which the license application will be reviewed are still under development." Are the States going to be consulted during the development of these criteria, as we have been led to believe? If so, why isn't it indicated in the rules? If not, why not?

It is stated once the wastes have been emplaced the Department of Energy may submit an application to decommission the site. There is no mention of a long-term monitoring system. Will the site be monitored and will the States be involved in the design of same? Will appropriate State agencies be involved in any way in the monitoring process?

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Under Subpart D, Section 60.71 - Records and Reports - Why not also notify the affected State of any deficiency found in the site?

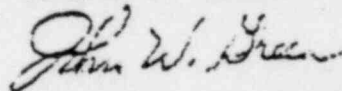
Section 60.73 - Inspections - Section states the Department of Energy shall allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to inspect on the premises of the repository. Why not allow appropriate State representatives to accompany on such inspections?

Obviously, we have the idea States are being excluded as much as possible in these matters which are of great concern to them. We sincerely hope the States can be involved in these matters which could have an economic, social and safety effect on them for centuries to come.

We appreciate the opportunity of reviewing these Proposed Rules.

Sincerely

BUREAU OF GEOLOGY



John W. Green  
Environmental Geologist

JWG:js

cc: Hon. William A. Allain  
State Attorney General

Alvin P. Bicker, Jr.  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Geology