



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 21, 1989

The Honorable Mike Synar, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment, Energy,  
and Natural Resources  
Committee on Government Operations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing as a follow-up to my testimony on the decommissioning of nuclear facilities before your Subcommittee on August 3, 1989. Enclosed for the hearing record is a list of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees that have been approved to perform burials under 10 CFR 20.302 since 1981.

During the hearing we discussed several issues and specific cases, and a number of commitments were made. I want to reiterate that we will ensure, within the scope of our authority, that all currently and formerly licensed sites are properly decontaminated.

Regarding site evaluations for residual radioactivity, we will request funds in our fiscal year 1991 budget to review our records of all sites decommissioned since 1965 to ensure that they were adequately decontaminated. We are already evaluating the site at Cushing, Oklahoma, and are determining appropriate actions for the sites at Pawling, New York, and West Lake landfill near St. Louis, Missouri. We will also ensure that the existing groundwater contamination and the potential for future contamination at the Kerr-McGee site at Cimarron, Oklahoma, are thoroughly evaluated before the license is terminated.

With respect to improving our regulatory requirements, we will expeditiously develop a policy on radiation levels that are "below regulatory concern" and issue interim guidance on acceptable levels of residual radioactivity based on that policy. Licensees will be advised that facilities decommissioned in accordance with this interim guidance may require further decontamination should the Environmental Protection Agency impose significantly more restrictive standards in the future. We will also update and expand our regulatory guidance on the appropriate survey techniques for detection of residual

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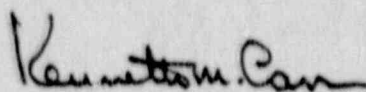
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radioactivity. Lastly, to ensure the completeness and accuracy of NRC records of decommissioned facilities, we will require licensees to list in one document all land, buildings, and equipment involved with licensed operations.

If you need additional information on these matters, please contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth M. Carr

Enclosure:  
NRC Approvals of Burials

cc: Representative William F. Clinger, Jr.

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION APPROVALS  
OF BURIALS PURSUANT TO 10 CFR SECTION 20.302 SINCE 1981

NRC regulations in 10 CFR Section 20.302 require a licensee to submit an application for approval of disposal by burial, including information necessary for NRC to make a determination that such disposal would not have any adverse affect on the health and safety of the public.

The attached list presents information on NRC approvals for burial of low-level radioactive waste pursuant to 10 CFR 20.302 since January 1, 1981. NRC staff in Headquarters and the Regions have reviewed the information in the list to provide reasonable assurance of its completeness, although the list was compiled without docket-by-docket search due to the thousands of docket files involved. The data is presented for both reactors and non-reactor cases.

Note that the list does not include Agreement State approvals under State regulations that are equivalent to 10 CFR 20.302. Those records are separately maintained by each State as part of their regulatory files.

ENCLOSURE

LICENSEE	LOCATION	STATE	YEAR OF APPROVAL	DISPOSAL TYPE	TYPE OF MATERIAL
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Reactor Licensees					
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San Onofre	4 mi SE of San Clemente	CA	1981	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated sand
Oyster Creek	9 mi S of Toms River	NJ	1982	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated soil
Turkey Point	25 mi S of Miami	FL	1982	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated soil
H.B. Robinson	28 mi from Florence	SC	1933	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated soil
H.B. Robinson	28 mi from Florence	SC	1984	ONSITE BURIAL	settling pond sediment
McGuire	17 mi S of Charlotte	NC	1984	ONSITE BURIAL	settling pond sludge
Davis-Besse	21 mi ESE of Toledo	OH	1985	ONSITE BURIAL	water treatment pond dredgings
Oconee	30 mi W of Greenville	SC	1985	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated sand
Oconee	30 mi W of Greenville	SC	1985	ONSITE BURIAL	tubes from feedwater heaters
Big Rock Point	4 mi NE of Charlevoix	MI	1986	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated soil
Cook	11 mi S of Benton Harbor	MI	1988	ONSITE BURIAL	concrete blocks
Fermi	25 mi NE of Toledo, OH	MI	1988	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated soil
Point Beach	13 mi NNW of Manitowoc	WI	1988	ONSITE BURIAL	sewage sludge
Ginna	NY municipal landfill	NY	1984	OFFSITE BURIAL	contaminated roofing material
Oconee	SC sewage treatment facility	SC	1984	OFFSITE BURIAL	sewage sludge
Humboldt Bay	EPA chemical waste landfill	CA	1985	OFFSITE BURIAL	sludge from waste separator
Catawba	NC municipal landfill	NC	1987	OFFSITE BURIAL	contaminated wood
McGuire	NC municipal landfill	NC	1987	OFFSITE BURIAL	contaminated wood
Oconee	SC municipal landfill	SC	1987	OFFSITE BURIAL	contaminated wood

LICENSEE	LOCATION	STATE	YEAR OF APPROVAL	DISPOSAL TYPE	TYPE OF MATERIAL
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Non-Reactor Cases					
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Harvard University	Southborough	MA	(1)	ONSITE BURIAL (2)	laboratory waste
Montana State University	3 mi NE of Morris	MT	(1)	ONSITE BURIAL (3)	solid waste and scintillation vials
University of Wyoming	5 mi W of Laramie	WY	(1)	ONSITE BURIAL (3)	biological waste and soil
US Dept. of Agriculture	Bushland	TX	(1)	ONSITE BURIAL (4)	liquid wastes
US Dept. of Agriculture	Beltsville	MD	(1)	ONSITE BURIAL (4)	lab and biological waste
Amax	Wood County	WV	1982	ONSITE BURIAL (5)	contaminated soil
Atlantic Research Corp.	Alexandria	VA	1983	ONSITE BURIAL (2)	contaminated soil
Ohio Agricultural R&D	Wooster	OH	1983	ONSITE BURIAL (2)	lab and biological waste
Velsicol Chemical Corp.	St. Louis	MI	1983	ONSITE BURIAL (4)	contaminated soil
SCA, Kawawlin Landfills	Bay City	MI	1985	ONSITE BURIAL (4)	contaminated soil
University of Alaska	Fairbanks	AK	1986	OFFSITE BURIAL (2,6)	biological waste and incinerator ash
Amax	Wood County	WV	1987	ONSITE BURIAL (5)	contaminated soil
Analytical Bio-Chemistry Labs	Columbia	MD	1987	ONSITE BURIAL (2)	land application of effluent
National Institutes of Health	Bethesda	MD	1987	ONSITE BURIAL	contaminated tank
University of California	Irvine	CA	1988	OFFSITE BURIAL (2,7)	biological waste
Pro-Technics Int'l, Inc.	NE of Elk City	OK	1989	ONSITE BURIAL (2)	fracturing sand slurry

(1) approved prior to 1981, but continued

(2) no significant potential radiation exposure based on environmental transport analysis due to small quantity of radioactive material and/or relatively short half-lives

(3) no significant potential radiation exposure due to small quantity of radioactive material and remoteness of burial

(4) no significant potential radiation exposure due to small quantity of radioactive material and access restrictions

(5) no significant potential radiation exposure due to depth of burial, insolubility, and deed restriction or access restriction

(6) remote research site near Fairbanks, Alaska, owned by the University of Alaska

(7) three remote research sites in Alaska, owned by the Federal government

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