

OCT 17 1989

Ms. Laurel Kritkauský
The Susquehanna School
75 Pennsylvania Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Ms. Kritkauský:

Thank you for your letter dated September 13, 1989, expressing your concern about radioactive waste issues. Our agency welcomes the opportunity to address public concerns regarding this important issue.

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980 set forth a Federal policy for the disposal of low-level radioactive wastes. The legislation makes each of the 50 states responsible for ensuring disposal capacity for the commercial low-level radioactive waste generated inside its borders. States may do this by themselves or by joining with other states in compacts and establishing regional waste facilities. The State of New York has thus far chosen to handle its own low-level waste and not participate in a regional compact. Consequently, the State is currently conducting an analysis of possible sites within its boundaries to determine the best possible location for hosting a low-level waste burial site. The chosen site will be required to meet strenuous regulatory requirements designed to protect public health and safety. Details concerning this process within the State of New York can be requested by writing to:

Jay Dunkleberger
Executive Director
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission
State of New York
1215 Western Avenue, Suite 306
Albany, New York 12203

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has developed regulatory requirements for the land disposal of radioactive waste in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61 (10 CFR, Part 61). The regulations in this part establish, for land disposal of radioactive waste, the procedures, criteria, and terms and conditions upon which the Commission issues licenses for the disposal of radioactive wastes containing byproduct, source, and special nuclear material received from others. This regulation, along with any additional state regulations that are compatible with it, is being utilized by different host state siting authorities to assure that their planned disposal facilities will meet licensing requirements and protect public health and safety. The NRC's

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has prepared the enclosed informational booklet providing guidance on 10 CFR, Part 61. The booklet should provide you a reasonable overview of low-level radioactive waste disposal regulatory criteria and the framework for State and Federal agencies applying these criteria.

Hopefully, this information will serve to address some of your concerns.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) RICHARD L. BANGART

Richard L. Bangart, Director
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning, NMSS

Enclosure: As stated

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SUBJECT ABSTRACT: PUBLIC INQUIRY, LOW-LEVEL WASTE - KRITKAUSKY

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