



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

November 3, 1989

The Honorable John G. Rowland
Member, United States
House of Representatives
135 Grand Street
Waterbury, Connecticut 06701

Dear Congressman Rowland:

I am responding to your letter of October 11, 1989, requesting information about the disposal of radioactive waste in Connecticut. 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 Connecticut and the State of New Jersey have formed the Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. In December 1987, the Commission for the Northeast Compact, composed of representatives from Connecticut and New Jersey, designated both Connecticut and New Jersey as host states for a disposal facility capable of safely managing an equitable portion of the waste generated within the Compact. The Northeast Compact Commission will decide what type of facility each state must develop. The chosen sites will be required to meet stringent NRC regulatory requirements designed to protect public health and safety. The Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service has prepared a report (See Enclosure 1) for the citizens of Connecticut. You can obtain further details on this process within the State of Connecticut from the:

Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service
Suite 360
900 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105-1904

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. Different host State siting authorities are using this regulation, along with any additional state regulations that are compatible with it, to ensure that their planned disposal facilities will meet licensing requirements and protect public health and safety. The NRC's Office

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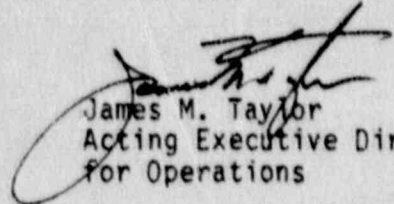
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The Honorable John G. Rowland

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of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has prepared an informational booklet providing guidance on 10 CFR Part 61 (See Enclosure 2). This booklet should provide your constituent with a reasonable overview of low-level radioactive waste disposal regulatory criteria and the framework for State and Federal agencies applying these criteria. I trust that this reply will respond to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,



James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service
2. Guidance on 10 CFR Part 61

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Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service
C.H.W.M.S.

ACNW YES NO
SUBJECT ABSTRACT: MISHAPS LOW-LEVEL WASTE
* See Previous Concurrence

*OCA
of
1/13*

OFC :LLOB* :LLOB* :LLOB* :TEDITOR* :OGC* :LLWM* :LLWM*
LCamper* 10/27/89
NAME:LPersor/jj: :RMacDougall: PLohaus :EKraus :STreby :JGreeves :RBangart
DATE:10/26/89 :10/26/89 :10/26/89:10/26/89 :10/27/89 :10/27/89 :10/27/89

OFC :NMSS :NMSS :DEDS :EDO : : :
NAME:GARlotta :RBernero :HTompson :JTaylor : : :
DATE:10/27/89 :10/29/89 :10/31/89 :11/1/89 :11/1/89 :11/1/89 :11/1/89

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n.s.

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