



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

*Duplicate copy for  
microfiche*

August 5, 1980

Mr. D. Ryan Cowan  
KCEN-TV 6, Waco Bureau  
811 Citizens Tower  
Waco, TX 76708

IN RESPONSE REFER  
TO FOIA-80-372

Dear Mr. Cowan:

This is in further response to your letter of July 17, 1980 which was forwarded to our agency for response from the Department of Energy, in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, copies of existing regulations pertaining to the disposal of high and low level wastes.

Please find enclosed SECY-79-580 dated October 22, 1979 which discusses the "Proposed New 10 CFR Part 60, 'Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories - Procedural Aspects.'" This document was undergoing review for releasability determination at the time of our July 30, 1980 response.

This completes NRC action on your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Felton".

J. M. Felton, Director  
Division of Rules and Records  
Office of Administration

Enclosure: As stated

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-80-372  
REC'D 7-17-80

June 11, 1980

Mr. Milton Jordan  
Director, FOI and Privacy Act activities  
Room 5B 138  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Sir,

Please send me a copy of materials available under the Freedom of Information Act relating to DOE studies on nuclear waste disposal. I am particularly interested in feasibility studies being conducted on salt domes in Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi, and any recommendations regarding specific sites. Also helpful would be existing regulations pertaining to disposal of both high and low level wastes. Any such materials you can dig up will be greatly appreciated.

Yours,

D. Ryan Cowan  
Waco Bureau, ECEK-TV

(Please send all materials to our Waco office: 811 Citizens Tower, Waco, TX 76708 817/756-6605)

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POOR ORIGINAL



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JUL 10 1980

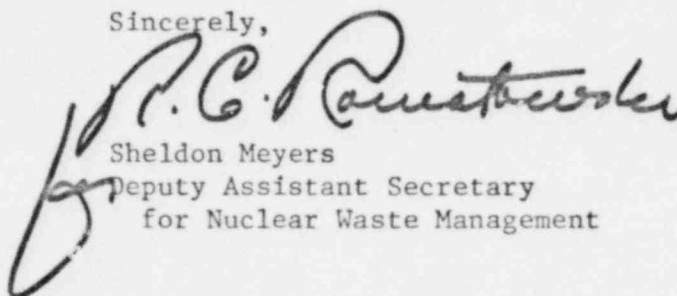
Mr. Joseph M. Selton, Director  
Division of Publications and Records  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Selton:

I have forwarded to your office a letter from Mr. D. Cowan of KCEN-TV 6 in Waco, Texas. Mr. Cowan has requested information under the Freedom of Information Act on the Department of Energy's nuclear waste management program to which I have responded. He has also requested to be provided with existing regulations pertaining to disposal of both high and low level radioactive wastes.

I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. Cowan and have notified him that his request for such regulatory information would be answered directly by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Meyers  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Waste Management

Enclosure

cc: w/o enclosure  
Milton Jordon, DOE/AD

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Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JUL 10 1977

Mr. D. Ryan Cowan  
KCEN - TV 6 - Waco Bureau  
811 Citizens Tower  
Waco, Texas 76708

Dear Mr. Cowan:

I am responding to your request under the Freedom of Information Act to provide material on Department of Energy activities in particular regions of the country with respect to potential development of a repository for nuclear waste disposal.

Currently, the Keechi Salt Dome in Anderson County and Oakwood Salt Dome bordering Leon and Freestone Counties in Northeast Texas are being evaluated by the Department to determine their potential, if any, for the permanent storage of nuclear waste. This investigation is part of a national study which further includes three domes in Mississippi, two domes in Louisiana and entirely different rock formations such as bedded salt, granite, basalt and tuff in other regions of the United States. Although our screening process has eliminated the Palestine Dome in Southwest Anderson County, Texas, our evaluations have not yet reached a state of knowledge sufficient to positively recommend specific sites.

I have enclosed a number of documents and reports on our activities which I think you will find useful. I would especially like to "highlight" the document, Statement of Position of the United States Department of Energy in the Matter of Proposed Rulemaking on the Storage and Disposal of Nuclear Waste (Waste Confidence Rulemaking). This document provides a comprehensive and detailed description of the National Waste Terminal Storage Program. The other enclosures further describe the President's policy on radioactive waste management and the Department of Energy's plans for implementing that policy into specific program activities. Our information booklet, "How to Find Information on Nuclear Waste Isolation," should help you obtain any additional documents you might need to complete your research. All information relating to the Nuclear Waste Management program is available to the public and it is not necessary to request it under the Freedom of Information Act.

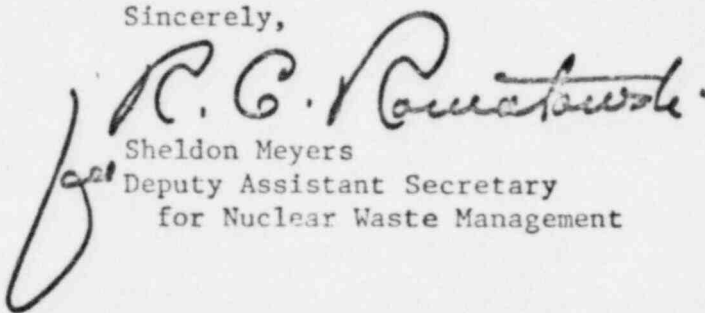
JUL 10 1980

Your request for information on salt domes included the State of New Mexico. The work in New Mexico is associated with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) project in bedded salt. This project is managed by the DOE Albuquerque Operations Office, and you should address your inquiries directly to U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115. With regard to your request for existing regulations pertaining to disposal of high and low level wastes, I have forwarded your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for response.

Finally, I would like to note that most of our research is of a preliminary nature and subjects the public to no risk at all. It is the policy of the Administration and the Department to develop and maintain a close consultative relationship with all states and localities involved in our studies. The Department is also prepared to provide states with technical and financial assistance to facilitate full participation in the selection process. In this regard, the Department has been working closely with the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (TBEG) in several of our studies, and Governor Clements has designated the Texas Energy and Resources Advisory Council (TENRAC) as his focal point for coordinating the State's oversight of nuclear waste program investigations in Texas.

I hope that this information will be helpful to your research on the Department of Energy's nuclear waste management program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office directly or utilize the availability of the "ONWI Library" as described in our informational pamphlet.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Meyers  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Waste Management

Enclosures

cc: Joseph M. Selton, NRC