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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 30, 1980

COMMITTEE:  
PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
WATER RESOURCES  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
WATER AND POWER RESOURCES  
NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Honorable John F. Ahearne  
Chairman,  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Matomic Building  
1717 H. Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

During the past several weeks there have been stories written regarding an alleged nuclear waste dump site off of Mendocino County, California, which is in my congressional district. Allegedly, this site was used in the 1950's and 1960's.

To date, EPA officials have responded to inquiries by indicating that, "according to documents available to them, there is no record of a site off of Northern California ever being used." According to other reports, there are also considerable differences of opinion on whether the designated dumping site is 90 miles or 600 miles off the coast. A Dr. Harold Ross, who heads a private marine research group in San Francisco called Project Tektite, has been reported as saying, "an unnamed official at the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed to him that the Ft. Bragg site was used." Ross said the official "wants to keep his job," however, and won't reveal the information publicly.

As you can imagine, this issue has generated much concern among my constituents, particularly those who live on the coast, and depend on commercial fishing and tourism for their livelihood. Thus, I consider that it is paramount that we immediately establish and affirm the following:

ENCLOSURE 2

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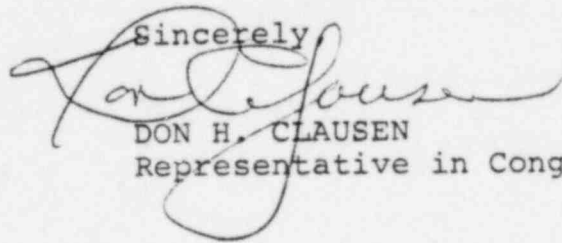
1) Was there a designated site for nuclear dumping off the Mendocino Coast in Northern California? If so, what is the location (specify latitude and longitude)? If not, where is the closest designated site?

2) If a site was designated, was it utilized? If so, what was dumped and most important, what, if any, are the short and long term health hazards?

I will appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



DON H. CLAUSEN  
Representative in Congress

DHC:ps