

From the desk of

50-201

ARNOLD GOPE  
225 E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Sept 24, 1980

Mr. Charles J. Haughney  
Advised Fuel & Spent Fuel Accounting Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle & Material Safety  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Haughney,

I am deeply distressed

by your letter of Sept 17, 1980.

You state in paragraph #2 that there has been no known leakage or migration of any radionuclides from the burial grounds. In the next paragraph you admit to the presence of Tritium in on-site streams adjacent to the grounds. I would like to remind you that Tritium is a radioactive isotope of Hydrogen.

When trench #4 was placed on land of 1475 Sr-90 levels in a nearby stream reached 270,000 pCi/L. After highly inadequate low level treatment this contaminated water was

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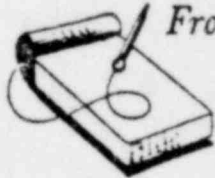
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released into local streams. As ~~an~~ <sup>subsequent</sup> nuclear apologist to assure us that the level of radioactivity is "tolerable." All the trenches are back on an incline which is presently eroding. Over the coming decades action may be needed to prevent the land from eroding even more rapidly.

My reference to Plutonium leakage was actually in reference to the Maxey Flats fuel ground in Kentucky which we had received the same assurances we now hear in regard to West Valley.

The technical flaws in the execution of the civilian uses of atomic energy are legion. They have been documented by the Union of Concerned Scientists as a most respected group including many former employees of the nuclear industry.

Fortunately we are now facing a projected decline in the demand for electricity, increased conservation and a massive solar industry at hand. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy represents an unnecessary risk for which there is no effective demand in the real world. Only the strange economics of a public utility will tolerate it as long as it has a monopoly.  
Sincerely,  
Arnold Gore

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