



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

JUN 4 1981



The Honorable Robert Lagomarsino
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

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(46 FR 17216)

Thank you for your letter dated May 18, 1981 on behalf of your constituent, Don Litton, who asked nuclear waste dumped south of Santa Cruz and about proposed restrictions on funding and licensing activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

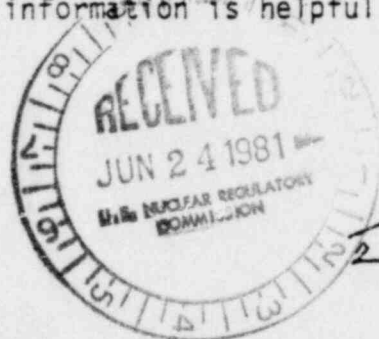
The NRC does not have statutory responsibility over ocean disposal of nuclear wastes. That responsibility rests with the Environmental Protection Agency today. Prior to 1972, the Atomic Energy Commission did have regulatory responsibility for ocean disposal and the NRC, as successor to the regulatory portion of the AEC, maintains records for disposal conducted under licenses issued by the AEC. Records relating to disposals carried out under license exempt operations are retained by the Department of Energy, which took over the military and research related activities of the AEC.

Last fall, Mr. Richard E. Cunningham, Director of NRC's Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety, testified at hearings before a subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee on Ocean Disposal. I am enclosing a copy of the testimony for Mr. Litton.

Mr. Litton also referred to a radio-report that the NRC was facing severe funding cuts coupled with restrictions on NRC hearing proceedings. I believe he is referring to the proposed rescission of \$10 million in NRC fiscal year 1981 funds included in the FY 1981 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Bill passed by the House of Representatives in May. As originally reported by the House Committee on Appropriations, this bill included three restrictions on funds for licensing activities. These three restrictions were dropped by the Committee before the final version went to the House floor. The Senate passed version did not rescind funds for the NRC. NRC Chairman Hendrie has written to the conferees in support of the Senate position. The bill is currently in conference.

I hope that this information is helpful to you in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,



Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Copy of the Testimony

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