



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

AUG 08 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: John E. Glenn, Chief  
Medical, Academic, and Commercial  
Use Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

FROM: John H. Austin, Chief  
Decommissioning and Regulatory  
Issues Branch  
Division of Low-Level Waste Management  
and Decommissioning

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR;  
(DOI) CONTROL NO. 463542

This is in response to your July 25, 1991 request regarding DOI's request to store for decay waste containing radioisotopes with half-lives up to 120 days for a period in excess of five years. The issue of storage of low-level waste for periods of time beyond five years (and beyond the 1996 deadline) is presently before the Commission for consideration. Thus, we agree with your assessment. Until the Commission acts on this issue, we would similarly recommend that no storage approvals be granted for periods of time greater than five years. We have not addressed the issue of storage of radioisotopes with half-lives up to 120 days because this issue is being addressed in a Region I Technical Assistance Request. This response was coordinated with P. Lohaus and J. Hickey.

John H. Austin, Chief  
Decommissioning and Regulatory  
Issues Branch  
Division of Low-Level Waste Management  
and Decommissioning

cc: P. Lohaus  
J. Hickey

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