



20-21 (12)  
Department of Energy (58 FR 47676)  
Washington, DC 20585

DEC 8 - 1993

'93 DEC 16 P3:58

Samuel J. Chilk  
Secretary of the Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555  
(Attn: Docketing and Service Branch)

Dear Mr. Chilk:

By September 10, 1993, Federal Register Notice, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requested public comment on a petition for rulemaking filed by Keith J. Schiager, Ph.D., et al (Docket No. PRM-20-21). The petitioners request that the Commission amend its regulations to provide additional options for the disposal of very low concentrations of short-lived radionuclides. The petitioners believe that such an amendment would permit more cost-effective waste management by research institutions and would not adversely affect public health and safety.

In response to the Notice, we distributed the petition within the Department. Department field facilities responded that the petition would have little or no effect on their waste management operations. Nonetheless, the respondees expressed support for the petition and agreed with the petitioners's assertion that the amendments should not adversely affect public health and safety.

Please contact Mr. G. Roles (202-586-0289) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Pelletier,  
Director  
Office of Environmental Guidance