



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

September 3, 1982

Mr. Robert R. Seiler
2291-A Dunwoody Crossing
Atlanta, GA 30338

IN RESPONSE REFER
TO FOIA-82-382

Dear Mr. Seiler:

This is in response to your letter dated August 17, 1982 in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, a complete listing of all nuclear disposal sites that have and have not been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In response to your request, the following information is provided.

There are some 20 repositories for low-level wastes in the United States. Of these, 14 are operated by the Department of Energy for federally-funded programs; and six are commercial, although three are no longer in operation (see the attached map). Below is additional information on the six commercial sites.

Under a provision of the Atomic Energy Act enabling qualified states to assume certain regulatory responsibilities from the NRC, all commercial low-level waste disposal sites but one in Sheffield, Illinois, are licensed by "Agreement States," and the Sheffield site is no longer accepting waste. Of the five state-regulated sites--West Valley, New York; Maxey Flats, Kentucky; Beatty, Nevada; Barnwell, South Carolina; and the Hanford facility near Richland, Washington--only the Hanford, Barnwell, and Beatty sites are still in operation. Pursuant to existing law, NRC continues to regulate the receipt and disposal of special nuclear material (SNM) at the Barnwell and Hanford sites.

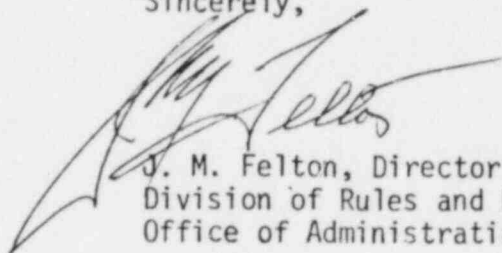
The disposal of commercial low-level radioactive waste is now a state rather than a Federal responsibility, as established by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980. States are currently working to develop regional compacts to assure adequate disposal capacity without building sites in every state.

Mr. Robert R. Seiler

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To date, NRC has not licensed any high-level waste disposal sites. The Department of Energy (DOE) has the responsibility for selecting and developing a disposal technology, and constructing, operating, and decommissioning a disposal facility under NRC license, although wastes used for or part of research and development activities would generally not fall under NRC regulation. For further information concerning DOE's programs, we suggest you contact Dr. Franklin E. Coffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Waste Management and Fuel Cycle Programs, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Felton", is written over the typed name and title.

J. M. Felton, Director
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

Enclosure: As stated