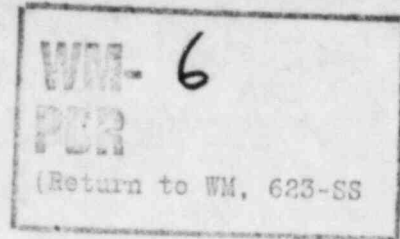


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OCT 18 1982



Ms. Alyce Le Blanc
824 W. 48th Street
Norfolk, VA 23508

Dear Ms. Le Blanc:

This is in response to your letter of September 26, 1982, requesting information on nuclear waste storage and disposal.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for regulating the disposal of radioactive wastes from licensed activities and high-level radioactive wastes generated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in order to assure adequate protection of public health and safety and the environment. DOE is responsible for research and development of different disposal methods of high-level and low-level wastes. For more information concerning DOE's plans and programs, we suggest you write to Dr. Franklin E. Coffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Waste Management and Fuel Cycle Programs, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20545.

The Commission has been actively involved in developing regulations for the licensing and regulation of deep geologic repositories for disposal of high-level waste. Enclosure 1 is a Federal Register Notice containing Subparts A through D of Part 60, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 60). This portion of 10 CFR 60 is a final rule describing licensing procedures for high-level waste disposal. The proposed final rule 10 CFR 60, Subparts E and F, describes technical criteria to be met by the licensee and is anticipated to be published in final form by January 1983.

We have also developed a final rule, Part 61, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 61), which clarifies existing regulations for land disposal of low-level wastes; this rule is presently before the Commission for final approval (Enclosure 2).

Attached as Enclosure 3 are some excerpts from a December 1981 report prepared by the Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory. This report explains some of the disposal methods for radioactive waste under consideration. The report, entitled "Understanding Radioactive Waste," (PNL-3570) can be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151, for \$6.50.

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We appreciate your interest in the nuclear waste management area.

Sincerely,

DM

Donna R. Mattson
Licensing Process Unit Leader
Licensing Process and Integration
Branch
Division of Waste Management

Enclosures:

- 1. 10 CFR 60 (procedural rule)
- 2. 10 CFR 61
- 3. Excerpts fm PNL-3570,
"Understanding Radioactive Waste"

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