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PDR  
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

OCT 18 1982

Mr. G. Harry Stopp, Jr., Director  
Office for Sponsored Programs  
The University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC 27412

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Dear Mr. Stopp:

This is in response to your letter of September 2, 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

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Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151, for \$6.50.

The "presidential study committee" you referred to in your letter was the State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste Management, established under Executive Order and in existence for approximately 18 months. This Council was established to provide advice and recommendations on ways of resolving specific institutional issues related to the management of radioactive wastes. For further information regarding this Council, we suggest you contact Mr. John Stucker, Executive Director, Governors' Nuclear Advisory Council, Byrnes International Center, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

We appreciate your interest in the nuclear waste management area.

Sincerely,

*LSI*

John J. Surmeier, Section Leader  
Policy Analysis Section  
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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