

WM-6  
FEB  
(Return to WM, 623-88  
- 1 - FEB 17 1983

411.1/NLS/82/11/14

DISTRIBUTION: WM-83109  
r/s/f 411.1  
NMSS r/f  
NStill  
DMattson  
JOBunting  
PDR

Ms. Gwen St. Romain  
1900 Perdido Street, Apt. 1102-A  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Ms. St. Romain:

This is in response to your letter requesting information on nuclear waste.

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 Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Director, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585.

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.

Attached 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.

Another publication which gives a general overview of nuclear waste is "A Nuclear Waste Primer." This booklet can be purchased by writing to the League of Women Voters of the United States, 1730 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, for \$1.95. This publication also contains a listing of other documents in the waste management area.

8303180617 830217  
PDR WASTE  
WM-6 PDR

OFC : : : : : : :  
-----  
NAME : : : : : : :  
-----  
DATE :83/02/17 : : : : : : :

We hope this information is useful for your school project and appreciate your interest in the nuclear waste management area.

Sincerely,

*N*  
Nancy L. Still  
Information Assistant  
Division of Waste Management

Enclosure:  
Excerpts fm PNL-3570,  
"Understanding Radioactive Waste"

---

OFC :	WMP1	:	:	:	:	:	:
NAME :	N Still nls	:	:	:	:	:	:
DATE :	83/02/17	:	:	:	:	:	:

---