

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

1035 OUTER PARK DRIVE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704

Jim Edgar
Governor

217-785-9900
217-782-6133 (TDD)

Thomas W. Ortziger
Director

June 3, 1994

Ivan Selin, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

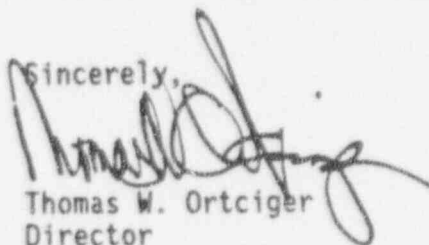
As I am sure you are aware, Illinois is an agreement state with authority to license disposal of low-level radioactive waste and is also a designated host state for a new regional disposal facility. The Illinois Low-Level Radioactive Waste Task Group, of which I am a member, is responsible for developing criteria for selection of a site for the disposal facility to be proposed to the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) for licensing. The Task Group has recently raised questions regarding deep geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste. The desire has been expressed to avoid, if possible, adopting criteria that would preclude deep geologic disposal.

My staff has researched applicable federal and state legal requirements, including 10 C.F.R. Part 61, and IDNS regulations at 32 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 601 and 606, which were adopted pursuant to our agreement state authority. We have also reviewed several NUREG documents, including NUREG/CR-3774 and NUREG-1241. Based on our research, it is not entirely clear whether deep geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste is an acceptable methodology.

I have been asked by the Task Group to request whether NRC would object to IDNS licensing deep geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste under its current regulations. The Task Group's next meeting is scheduled for June 17 in East Peoria, Illinois. We would greatly appreciate a response before that date and would request a representative of the NRC to attend the meeting to discuss deep geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

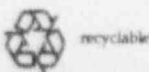
Thank you for your assistance. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 217/785-9868.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Ortziger
Director

cc: Richard L. Bangart
Roland Lickus
Task Group Members
Task Group Permanent File



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