



Atomic Energy Commission de contrôle
Control Board de l'énergie atomique

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Directorate of Fuel Cycle
and Materials Regulation

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8 April 1983

Dr. W.A. Mills
Health Effects Branch
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Mills:

Re: Concept of De Minimis Dose

I am writing on behalf of Drs. R. Chatterjee and J. Coady to thank you and your associates most sincerely for the discussions held in Washington on 1 and 2 March, 1983. While there are slight differences in approach to the de minimis dose concept by NRC and AECB staff, we are very much encouraged by the remarkable similarities in derived numerical criteria and their application. This is particularly so in the proposal to introduce an individual dose cut-off in estimates of collective dose.

As a result of further internal discussions here and having had the benefit of external comments from NRC staff and others on our draft Consultative Document C-74, we are proceeding to address the de minimis dose concept as a generic issue rather than as a waste management matter. The schedule for this exercise calls for the submission of a policy statement and a background document to the next meeting of our Board in mid-May of this year. Having now established the contacts with NRC staff, we shall endeavour to keep you informed of any further significant developments on this issue.

I might add at this time that we intend to convey our views again on individual dose cut-offs in collective dose assessments to the next meeting in June, 1983, of the NEA Expert Group on Long-Term Radiation Protection Objectives in Radioactive Waste Disposal. We discussed this aspect during our meeting in Washington as I recall since we are concerned that wider support from member countries is needed if some members of the Expert Group are to be convinced that dose cut-offs are a reasonable tool to use in collective dose assessments. If NRC is

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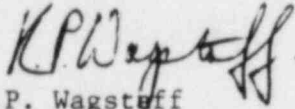
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contemplating a contribution to that meeting by way of either a written brief or attendance, perhaps we would benefit by getting in touch beforehand and exchanging notes.

In any event, we wish you every success with your proposed revisions to 10CFR Part 20 and look forward to further useful discussions in the future with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



K.P. Wagstaff
Waste Management Division

KPW:bm