

DEC 30 1994

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TRANSMITTAL OF CORRESPONDENCE RE: ESTIMATES OF PLUTONIUM TO BE DISPOSED AT THE PROPOSED WARD VALLEY FACILITY (SP-94-185)

Your attention is invited to the attached correspondence which contains:

- INCIDENT AND EVENT INFORMATION....
- PROGRAM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION....
- TRAINING COURSE INFORMATION.....
- TECHNICAL INFORMATION.....XX
- OTHER INFORMATION.....

Supplementary information: Enclosed for your information is correspondence related to estimates of plutonium to be disposed at the proposed Ward Valley, California low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The correspondence consists of two letters dated December 14, 1994 and November 23, 1994, to Ms. Ina Alterman, Board on Radioactive Waste Management, National Research Council from Malcolm R. Knapp, Director, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Also, enclosed is the incoming letter dated November 10, 1994, from Ms. Alterman to Mr. Paul Lohaus, Deputy Director, Office of State Programs.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me or the individual named below.

POINT OF CONTACT: Stephen Salomon
 TELEPHONE: (301) 504-2368
 FAX: (301) 504-3502
 INTERNET: SNS@NRC.GOV

LS
 Paul H. Lohaus, Deputy Director
 Office of State Programs

Enclosures:
As stated *above*

Distribution: DIR RF RBangart PLOhaus
 MWeber, LLDP JGlenn, LLDP MKnapp, DWM ACampbell, PAHB
 LLW File CA File RSAO's* RSLO's* 12/30/94 E-Mailed
 DCD (SP01) PDR YES X NO JKennedy, LLDP

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	OSP	OSP:DD	NMSS:LLDP	OSP:D		
NME	SSalomon:gd	PLohaus	JKennedy	RBangart		
DTE	12/21/94*	12/27/94	12/20/94*	12/30/94		

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 LLW File CA File DCD (SP01) PDR YES NO

OFC	OSP:SA <i>SNS</i>	OSP:DD	<i>get via mail</i> NMSS:LLDP	OSP:D			
NME	SSalomon:dr	PLohaus	JKennedy	RBangart			
DTE	12/21/94	12/ /94	12/20/94	12/ /94			

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 14, 1994

Ms. Ina Alterman
Board on Radioactive Waste Management
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Ms. Alterman:

On November 23, 1994, I sent to you the results of our review of the California Department of Health (DHS) estimates for ^{239}Pu projected to be disposed of at the proposed Ward Valley facility. We agreed with DHS' estimate of several curies. As we explained, our conclusion was based on data obtained from our research program over the last decade, from current decommissioning activities in the U.S., and from inventory reports of disposals at the three recently operating sites.

After answering your question regarding Ward Valley estimates, we examined the basis for the values projected from the analysis in our Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for 10 CFR Part 61, "Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste," (NUREG-0782) and a supporting document "Data Base for Radioactive Waste Management," NUREG/CR-1759. As DHS noted in its estimate, U.S. Ecology used data from these documents in developing the license application estimate of approximately 3500 curies. The enclosure is a new analysis of the original ^{239}Pu estimates in the DEIS. The new analysis shows that the estimated inventory for this isotope reported in the DEIS was high by two orders of magnitude. This analysis further confirms the conclusion provided in our November 23, 1994, letter.

If you have any questions, please contact James Kennedy at (301) 415-6668.

Sincerely,

Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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Enclosure