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TRIP REPORT

MAY 17 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Philip M. Altomare, Seciton Leader
Policy & Program Control Branch

FROM: Gretchen Hund, Program Analyst
Policy & Program Control Branch

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT ON "STATE WORKSHOP ON SHALLOW LAND BURIAL AND
ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL CONCEPTS" SPONSORED BY THE NRC OFFICE
OF STATE PROGRAMS

On May 3 and 4, 1984 state representatives, federal agency officials, and industry representatives met to discuss pros and cons of shallow land burial and its alternatives. From this workshop we learned that many States feel that:

- ° SLB is not acceptable to the public and that alternatives offer a greater potential for environmental protection.
- ° There is a lack of information on disposal alternatives for a dialogue with the public and for decision making.
- ° Federal agencies need to provide more regulatory guidance, R&D, and cost evaluations.

The NRC staff responded that:

- ° it could not justify to Congress the need to write regulatory guides for a panoply of disposal alternatives
- ° it needed a commitment from a State for a particular disposal technique before giving pre-licensing guidance
- ° it could not engage in developmental activities of a disposal technique for which it would later be the regulator.

The NRC staff also stressed the importance of the States not stalling any longer in taking steps to select a disposal site. However, the message we received from the States was that they were not ready to rush home and begin detailed alternative studies.

WM Record File

WM Project 3212

Docket No. _____

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With respect to the future of a New England compact we learned that

- ° It is extremely unlikely that the eleven States originally seen comprising this compact will ever come to an agreement.
- ° The New York State Energy Office recommended that NY not join the New England Compact.
- ° N.Y. appears to be making the most progress of the New England states in committing to establishing a disposal site.

The Midwestern States seem to share the views of the New England states, that SLB is probably not an appropriate disposal technique for humid regions.

An example of public distrust in SLB came from Robert Avant's presentation, a member of Texas' LLW Disposal Authority. He cited a Texas poll; of the people surveyed only 29% felt SLB was an appropriate disposal method.

Several suggestions for managing LLW came out of the workshop. Tom Carter from Ontario Hydro recommended using square containers instead of round barrels because of tighter stacking capability. Bill Dornsife from Pennsylvania's Bureau of Radiation Protection/Department of Environmental Resources made the following personal recommendations:

- ° classify waste based on its total characteristics (hazardous and radiological) and dispose of it accordingly
- ° segregate waste
- ° require more volume reduction of waste
- ° control tritium migration by using high integrity containers (HIC).
- ° insure that all waste meets stability requirements.

/s/

Gretchen Hund, Policy Analyst
Policy & Program Control Branch

cc: JBunting

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