

JUL 25 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: John G. Davis, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Patricia G. Norry, Director, Office of Administration

SUBJECT: FEES FOR TOPICAL REPORTS - LOW LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

We have reviewed your request to waive fees for vendor topical reports which provide information that NRC licensees could use in their low-level radioactive waste management programs to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Sections 61.55 and 61.56 of 10 CFR 61.

Section 170.11(b) of Part 170 of the Commission's regulations provides that the Commission may upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from fees as it determines are authorized by law and are otherwise in the public interest. It is our conclusion that no legal obstacle exists to such a waiver and it would be in the public interest to grant it for reports filed on or before June 20, 1984. This decision is based on the following information provided by your office:

1. The waiver would encourage early submission of reports and their acceptance would provide early availability of products and processes for NRC licensees to use in the classification and stabilizing of the low-level radioactive wastes they generate. Early availability of such information is important since the new requirements for classifying and stabilizing radioactive waste will become effective December 27, 1983.
2. The use of topical reports will provide greater efficiency in the review process since the alternative would be to require each licensee generating low-level waste to develop his own proposal and file for approval.
3. It is believed that early availability of acceptable products and processes for waste management will provide a greater degree of consistency in how the regulatory agencies apply the new Part 61 criteria in dealing with individual waste generators and waste burial sites.
4. The encouragement of vendors to file early reports for classifying and processing radioactive waste is one additional step in resolving the national problem of radioactive waste disposal. By taking this lead the NRC is moving toward the development of a national standard for waste management.

- 5. The estimated NRC cost would be \$300,000-600,000 based on the NPSS estimate of an early filing of 10-20 topical reports. This cost would be a small fraction of the cost that has been invested in the development of criteria and standards for waste management.
- 6. These reports more so than any other are of interest to the public. Resolution of the waste disposal problem is national in scope. These reports are also unique in that all licensees who generate low-level waste are subject to the requirements of Part 61 or comparable requirements adopted by Agreement States.

In view of the above, fees will be waived for topical reports describing methods for classification and stabilizing radioactive wastes provided such complete and acceptable reports are filed on or before June 20, 1984.

Patricia G. Morry, Director  
Office of Administration

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