

Box 17
Ardmore, S.D. 57715
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G. Wayne Kerr, Director
Office of State Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kerr:

In preparation for the upcoming legislative session in South Dakota, beginning Jan. 8, I am attempting to update my research. I appreciate your help in answering questions and supplying documentation in the past, and I will be most grateful for any information you can provide at this time.

I need to know the present status of the five alternative methods for disposal of LLW for which evaluation criteria are being developed. Of particular interest are above-ground vaults and earth mounded concrete bunkers.

Is criteria now finalized for complete evaluation of these alternatives? Have minimal submittal requirements for license applicants, or license application review procedures, been developed? Do you anticipate a future date by which the NRC could begin receiving applications for licensing one of these alternative methods?

What is the present NRC license fee for permanent LLW disposal? Would fee adjustments be made for states with small amounts of waste (such as South Dakota with seven cubic feet annually) who might choose to dispose of their own waste in-state? Would agreement state status exempt the state, or state-regulated generators, from the NRC license fee?

My concern here is that with a small site, the major cost (and therefore the prohibiting factor) may very well be the NRC license fee. Private studies indicate that a small site (using above-ground vaults, of concrete lined with steel and lead, of sufficient thickness to guarantee total site integrity in all possible events) would be well within the range of feasibility in both the technical and the cost considerations.

If you can send information concerning these question by Jan. 1, I will greatly appreciate it. Thank you for your concern and assistance as we endeavor to comply with the terms of the 1980 LLRW Policy Act. We remain confident that we will be able to develop a solution which will be beneficial to all. ✓

Sincerely Yours,

Ray Lautenschlager

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