

December 30, 1997

Ms. Elizabeth Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF ASSISTANCE IN
DEVELOPING A MIXED WASTE MANAGEMENT RULE

Dear Ms. Cotsworth:

I am responding to your letter of December 5, 1997, which informed me that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun work on a rulemaking which will explore options for regulatory relief for mixed waste storage and disposal. You requested assistance of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff in developing both the proposed and final rule dealing with mixed waste management. My staff will support this effort to the degree our budget allows. To assess the impact of this activity on our current and future budgets, it would be helpful to have a more detailed schedule than that provided in your letter. In addition, we suggest that this rulemaking be coordinated through the Mixed Waste Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards.

Your letter references two cooperative efforts that were completed within the last year: (1) the Joint NRC/EPA Guidance on Testing Requirements for Mixed Radioactive and Hazardous Waste; and (2) NRC's Technical Position on Disposition of Cesium 137 Contaminated Emission Control Dust. I share your views concerning our successes in developing these guidance documents and commend the efforts of your staff, particularly Ms. Nancy Hunt. I look forward to similar results on future joint efforts.

Our point of contact for mixed waste matters is Mr. Dominick Orlando of my staff. Mr. Orlando can be reached at (301) 415-6749. Your staff should contact him directly concerning any additional details related to the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

[W. Kane for C. Paperiello]
Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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PDR DRG EUSEPA
PDR

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DATE	12/19/97	12/19/97	12/24/97	12/30/97					

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carl J. Paperiello", is written over a horizontal line.

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

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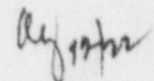
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Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

NMSS-9700576

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