

October 22, 1999

Mr. Anthony J. Thompson
ShawPittman
2300 N Street
Washington, DC 20032-1128

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This responds to your letter to Joseph Holonich, dated September 30, 1999, regarding the disposition of wastes generated in connection with *in situ* leach (ISL) uranium recovery operations. As noted in your letter, you believe there appears to be some confusion between what was stated in the letter from Mr. Holonich to Ms. McBurney, dated May 5, 1998, and other NRC guidance documents on the same subject.

Your letter referenced Draft NUREG-1569: Standard Review plan for In Situ Leach Uranium License Applications, dated February 23, 1998. Staff has not published a final version of this draft NUREG. The guidance to Ms. McBurney, contained in Mr. Holonich's letter, is the staff's position.

As you know, the Commission has before it a few matters relating to the regulation of the Uranium Recovery Industry, several of which were raised to the Commission by the National Mining Association concerning the ISL uranium recovery operations.

Once the Commission has reached a policy decision on these issues, staff will finalize NUREG-1569 to be consistent with the Commission's direction.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

John J. Surmeier, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: Ruth E. McBurney, TDH
Paul Lohaus, OSP

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

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ShawPittman
2300 N Street
Washington, DC 20032-1128

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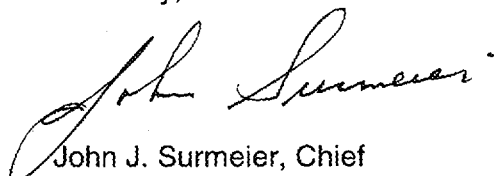
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