



State of Vermont

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE

7R-60
(52 FR 5992)

88

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Center Building
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05676

'87 JUL 20 A10:01

14 July 1987

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATT: Docketing & Service Branch

TO: The Secretary of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

The Vermont Advisory Commission on Low-Level Radioactive Waste would like to comment on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking RE: Definition of High-Level Radioactive Waste. As our Commission meets monthly we have been unable to submit comments by the 29 June deadline. We hope that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission can consider our comments at this time. The comments are as follows:

1. The Vermont Advisory Commission feels that naturally occurring or accelerator-produced radioactive materials (NARM) should be treated like any other byproduct material and classified as high-level or low-level waste which ever is appropriate for its concentration.

2. Deliberate dilution of a waste stream to alter the classification of a waste from high-level waste to low-level waste should be prohibited.

3. A regulatory mechanism should be created to provide for the collection, from separate generators, of very small quantities of high specific activity materials that are classified as high level waste and packaged in a collected form for disposal as high-level waste.

4. The notice on proposed rulemaking states "The Commission will determine which wastes require permanent isolation by evaluating the disposal capabilities of alternative, less secure, disposal facilities. These facilities might make use of intermediate depth burial or various engineering measures, such as intruder barriers, to

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Secretary of the Commission

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accommodate wastes with radionuclide concentrations unsuitable for disposal by shallow land burial".

These statements imply the NRC may establish an intermediate class of waste. If a new classification is created the federal government must accept all responsibilities for disposal and regulation of such waste.

We apologize for our late submission and hope that the NRC can consider these comments when preparing a rulemaking.

Sincerely,

J. Garvan Murtha

J. Garvan Murtha
Chairman

JGM/lw

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July 13, 1987

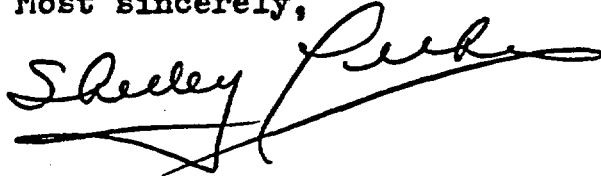
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Dear Secretary,

OFFICE OF
DOCKETING & RECORDS
BRANCH

Regarding the NRC's intention of revising the definition of high-level radioactive waste (52FR 39:5992), I submit you would better use your time concentrating on solutions rather than semantics. Calling the AIDS virus the common cold will not change its potential to harm. We do not deal well with any form of toxic waste in this country nor anywhere in the world for that matter. You have been handed a problem that is currently insurmountable and growing more so (literally) each day. And as long as production continues, people will continue to deny the severity of the problem and expect you to deal with it. Except in those places like Beloit, KS, the Texas panhandle, Carlsbad, NM (first you must pass through a town called Truth or Consequences), Tennesseans faced with an MRS, us dear folk in NH and Maine, etc., etc., etc. Public opinion has swung, but no one wants to deal with the problem head on. Do not try to gift wrap the garbage. Inevitably we all must deal with reality, no matter who is making a profit. Please act responsibly.

Most sincerely,



P.S. For a less esoteric perspective on my opinion, please refer to comments sent by NIRS.

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Acknowledged by card. JUL 23 1987