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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515**  
May 17, 1989

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Mr. John Bradburne  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C., Texas 20555

Dear Mr. Bradburne:

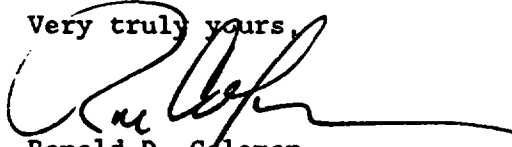
At the request of El Paso County officials, I am writing to suggest a meeting between representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mr. George Beckwith of Sergent Hauskins & Beckwith and Mr. Darcy Frownfelter of El Paso County, in Washington, D.C. at your convenience.

The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the interpretation of siting requirements as outlined in 10 C.F.R. Part 61.50 and Part 45.50 of the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation. There is concern on El Paso County's part that there is a wide variation in possible interpretations of the scope of these requirements. In the interest of expediting the settlement of questions the County has on this issue, I believe that the requested meeting would be beneficial to all involved.

I would appreciate your efforts to arrange a meeting with Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Frownfelter. Please let me have your comments. Ms. Robin Bordie of my staff is available to help schedule dates, places and times. Once again I thank you for your generous cooperation.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

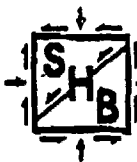
Very truly yours,



Ronald D. Coleman  
Member of Congress

RDC/rb

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May 16, 1988

The Honorable Ronald D. Coleman  
416 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4316

SHB Job No. E88-4008B

Re: Site NTP-S34, Ft. Hancock  
Texas Low-Level Radioactive  
Waste Authority  
Hudspeth County, Texas

Dear Congressman Coleman,

In accordance with the request of Darcy A. Frownfelter, Esq., Special Assistant County Attorney of El Paso County, I am summarizing the subjects relating to the Ft. Hancock Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Site we wish to discuss with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As you know, our firm has performed an independent geologic and hydrologic evaluation of the site on behalf of Hudspeth and El Paso Counties, Hudspeth County Conservation & Reclamation District No. 1, and Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District No. 1. We have concluded that the site cannot be developed with the level of assurance required for the safe disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

A relatively large drainage area is present upstream and our studies using several independent approaches indicate that most of the site is located within the 100-year flood plain. Our investigation identified a previously unknown or unreported fissure system on the site and several potentially



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Site NTP-S34, Ft. Hancock  
Texas Low-Level Radioactive  
Waste Authority  
Hudspeth County, Texas  
SHB Job No. E88-4008B

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active faults in the vicinity. The site is in an area of flooding and tectonic movement, evidence exists of faulting in the bedrock beneath the site, and we believe there is a strong possibility that other yet undetected fissures are present and that new fissures will develop beneath the site in the future. Because of these features and conditions, we conclude that the site fails to meet the intent of several of the site selection criteria in 10 C.F.R. Part 61.50 and T.R.C.R. Part 45.50.

We wish to discuss the regulatory intent of the NRC as to how the site suitability requirements in Part 45.50 of the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation should be treated, given the site characteristics that have been discovered, to be comparable to 10 C.F.R. Part 61.50. Specifically, we wish to discuss the site suitability questions relating to:

- The 100-year flood plain.
- Minimization of upstream drainage area.
- Avoidance of faulting, folding, seismic activity, volcanism and other tectonic processes.
- Avoidance of areas of erosion.
- Avoidance of areas of groundwater recharge.
- The capability to characterize, analyze and monitor.

Relative to these site suitability issues we would also like to discuss the practicability of providing reasonable



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Should you have any questions, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

By

George H. Beckwith, P.E.  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Engineer

**C1J/31J/5-16-89**



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