



May 18, 1984

SECY-84-87A

POLICY ISSUE

(Information)

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: NRC REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY'S (DOE) MISSION PLAN FOR THE CIVILIAN
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose: To inform the Commission of ongoing and proposed staff
actions and the schedule to review and comment on the DOE
Mission Plan.

Issue: Section 301(b) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982
(Public Law 97-425) directs the Secretary of Energy to
submit a Draft Mission Plan to the Commission for comment
in advance of its submittal to Congress. Volumes I and II
of the Draft Mission Plan were received on May 8, 1984 and our
review is under way. The Act specifies that the Mission
Plan will provide an informational basis sufficient to
permit informed decisions to be made in carrying out the
repository program and the research, development and
demonstration projects required under the Act. The Act also
directs the Commission to specify with precision any
objections concerning the Plan in comments to DOE.

Discussion: The NRC staff reviewed and commented on a preliminary
draft of Volume I of the Mission Plan earlier this year
(SECY-84-87). Volume I provided the Department's program
policies, strategies, and schedules for development of
spent fuel and high-level waste repositories, Federal
interim storage, monitored retrievable storage, and
transportation. Volume II, which we are now reviewing for
the first time, covers information specifically required in
Section 301(a) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

DOE requests that comments be received by July 9, 1984 to
allow sufficient time to digest the comments before
submitting the Final Mission Plan to Congress. We
anticipate that DOE will brief the Commission on the

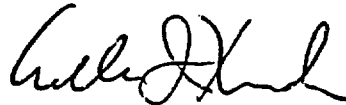
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contents of the Draft Mission Plan in the near future. As our review progresses, we will keep the Commissioners informed of the development of NRC staff comments. On completion of our review, formal staff comments will be forwarded on or about June 20, 1984 in a Negative Consent Paper to the Commission for their consideration.



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