



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

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May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: John E. Glenn, Chief *JEG*  
Medical, Academic, and Commercial  
Use Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

FROM: John W. N. Hickey, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST - WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY

This responds to your memorandum of April 24, 1992, subject as above, relaying a request from John Kinneman, Region I, for confirmation of their interpretation of the Branch Technical Position for Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes from Past Operations (BTP), 46 FR 52061, October 23, 1981. Their interpretation is that, for unenriched uranium, with no decay products of U-234 present, the applicable values in the BTP are those for depleted uranium.

We agree with that interpretation. The basis is the contribution of U-238 to the inhalation and ingestion doses relative to that of U-234. For both natural uranium and depleted uranium, the U-238 contributes a substantial fraction of the radioactivity, whereas, for enriched uranium, the radioactivity is completely dominated by the U-234, with regard to inhalation and ingestion doses.

If there are any questions on this interpretation, please contact Dr. Edward Shum at (301) 504-2607.

John W. N. Hickey, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
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