

The above notices of determination were received from the indicated jurisdictional agencies by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and 18 CFR 274.104. Negative determinations are indicated by a "D" before the section code. Estimated annual production (PROD) is in million cubic feet (MMCF). An (*) before the Control (JD) number denotes additional purchasers listed at the end of the notice.

The applications for determination are available for inspection except to the extent such material is confidential, under 18 CFR 275.206, at the Commission's Division of Public Information, Room 1000, 825 North Capitol St., Washington, D.C. Persons objecting to any of these determinations may, in accordance with 18 CFR 275.203 and 275.204, file a protest with the Commission within fifteen days after publication of notice in the *Federal Register*.

Categories within each NGPA section are indicated by the following codes:

- Section 102-1: New OCS lease
- Section 102-2: New well (2.5 mile rule)
- Section 102-3: New well (1000 ft rule)
- Section 102-4: New onshore reservoir
- Section 102-5: New reservoir on old BCS lease
- Section 107-DP: 15,000 feet or deeper
- Section 107-GB: Geopressed brine
- Section 107-CS: Coal seams
- Section 107-DV: Devonian shale
- Section 107-PE: Production enhancement
- Section 107-TF: New tight formation
- Section 107-RT: Recompletion tight formation
- Section 108: Stripper well
- Section 108-SA: Seasonally affected
- Section 108-ER: Enhanced recovery
- Section 108-PB: Pressure buildup

Kenneth F. Plumb,
Secretary.

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Office of the Secretary

Long-Term Management of Liquid High-Level Radioactive Waste at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, West Valley; Record of Decision

This Record of Decision has been prepared pursuant to regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Part 1505) and Implementing Procedures of the Department of Energy (45 FR 20694).

Decision

The Department of Energy (DOE) has decided to construct and operate

facilities at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (Center), West Valley, New York, to solidify the existing liquid High-Level Radioactive Wastes (HLW) which are presently being stored in underground tanks. The wastes will be solidified into a form which is suitable for transportation and disposal in a Federal geologic repository (Alternative 1A) in accordance with the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-368). Related decisions, such as selection of the terminal waste form, final decontamination and decommissioning of solidification facilities, and the siting and design of the repository will be addressed in subsequent environmental analyses. Each of these decisions will be subject to appropriate documentation to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as provided for by DOE compliance guidelines.

Disposition of project generated low-level waste is another decision which must still be made. Two principal options exist: packaging and storage on site until transportation to a regional low-level waste burial site can be effected, or use of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed burial area at West Valley. Selection of one of these options will be made after appropriate environmental review.

Background

The Center is located near the town of West Valley, approximately 50 km (30 miles) southeast of Buffalo, New York. At this site there are about 2 million liters (600,000 gallons) of liquid high-level radioactive wastes stored in underground tanks. The wastes are the byproducts of commercial reprocessing of nuclear reactor fuel from both Federal Government reactors and commercial power reactors during the period 1966-1972, and are composed of a sludge phase and an aqueous supernatant solution.

The Federal Government's long-term radioactive waste management objective is to isolate existing and future wastes from the biosphere so they pose no significant risk to public health and safety. The U.S. Congress directed the Department in October 1980 to carry out a high-level radioactive waste management demonstration project at the Center for the purpose of demonstrating solidification techniques which can be used for preparing high-level radioactive waste for disposal. Solidification of the wastes is consistent with DOE's policy and management objective regarding the isolation of radioactive waste from the biosphere.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the

DOE published the *Final Environmental Impact Statement—Long-Term Management of Liquid-High-Level Radioactive Wastes Stored at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, West Valley* (DOE/EIS-0081) in July 1982. The action considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to construct and operate facilities necessary to solidify the liquid HLW stored at West Valley in accordance with Pub. L. 96-368. Reasonable alternatives to implementing this action were analyzed in the EIS. Notice of the availability of the EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on July 16, 1982 (47 FR 31062).

Description of Alternatives

The following alternatives were considered in the EIS for management of the liquid HLW.

1. Alternative 1—On-Site Processing to Terminal Waste Form.

- 1A—Separated Salt/Sludge Process (Preferred Alternative). In this alternative the majority of radioactive components of the waste supernatant would be stripped from the aqueous phase. The remaining low-level aqueous phase would then be dried to a low-level radioactive salt cake and the high-level radioactive components would be mixed with the remaining HLW sludge. This HLW mixture would then be concentrated, chemically treated and converted into a solid, terminal waste form suitable for transportation off-site and disposal in a Federal geologic repository.

- 1B—Nonseparated Salt/Sludge. This alternative is similar to 1A, except that the sludge and supernatant phases of the HLW would be converted together to a terminal waste form (i.e., no separation and concentration).

In either Alternative 1A or 1B, the solidified HLW would most likely be stored at the West Valley site until such time that a Federal repository becomes available (late 1990's).

2. Alternative 2—On-Site Processing to an Interim Waste Form.

In this alternative the liquid HLW would be converted to a solid interim waste form which would be shipped to a Federal waste facility (not presently available) for future processing to a terminal form and disposal in a Federal geologic repository.

3. Alternative 3—In Tank Solidification.

In this alternative the liquid HLW would be mixed with cement and other additives, poured back into the existing underground tanks and the solidified HLW left on-site.

4. Alternative 4—In Tank Solidification

• **4A—Delay 10 Years.** In this alternative the liquid HLW would continue to be stored in the underground tanks for 10 years, after which time solidification alternatives would be reconsidered.

• **4B—Continued Storage in Tanks.** In this alternative the liquid HLW would continue to be stored in the tanks indefinitely with the liquid HLW periodically transferred to new storage tanks.

Basis for Decision

High-level radioactive waste must be managed so that current and future generations will be protected from its potential hazards. The principal objective of disposal is the isolation of the waste from the human environment, with minimum reliance on maintenance and surveillance. Continued tank storage at West Valley would require periodic construction of replacement tanks, and transfer of such wastes. Continued storage is therefore only an interim measure for management of these wastes.

Tables 2.3 and 2.4 of the EIS provides a summary comparison of the technical aspects and environmental impacts of the various alternatives. The projected impacts of the HLW solidification alternatives would be small. None of the alternatives in the EIS is so environmentally superior that it can be identified as clearly preferable.

The Secretary is required by the West Valley Demonstration Project Act to solidify, at West Valley, the liquid HLW in a form which is suitable for subsequent transportation and disposal in an appropriate Federal repository. Alternative 1 options are the only approaches which comply fully with this requirement.

Alternative 1A (separated salt/sludge process) appears environmentally to be slightly preferable, based on occupational and short-term (100 years) population impacts, and has the strongest technological base; consequently alternative 1A was selected.

Ongoing efforts will further refine design, construction, and operational aspects of the WVDP. The process of the actual WVDP, as built, may therefore differ from the present descriptions due to the incorporation of refinements from the development program. Such refinements are not expected to substantially alter the projected environmental impacts.

Considerations in the Implementation of the Decision

The existing West Valley facilities will be modified for use and new

facilities may be added. All facilities will comply with DOE standards for such factors as: earthquake, tornado, fire, radiation protection and environmental protection. The construction of new facilities should not pose any significant or unmitigable impacts and would take place in previously disturbed areas of a site already used for nuclear applications. Measures to minimize potential environmental impacts include sound engineering design, proper construction practices and an adequate quality assurance program.

Safety Analysis Reports and Operational Safety Requirements are required for this project and will be approved by DOE and reviewed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure that the project develops and operates in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The final design and layout of the facilities will include all practicable methods of mitigating impacts. The ongoing environmental monitoring program will be expanded to a more comprehensive program so potential impacts of new construction and new operations can be quickly detected and mitigated.

For the United States Department of Energy.

Dated: September 9, 1982.

Shelby T. Brewer,

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP 40009A; FRL 2199-4]

Department of the Interior Federal Agency Plan; Approval of Plan for Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In the Federal Register of June 15, 1982 (47 FR 25768), the Administrator of EPA announced her intention to approve the plan of the Department of the Interior (DOI) for the certification of its employees to apply restricted use pesticides in the performance of their duties. The comment period for the DOI Plan ended on July 30, 1982. No comments were received. Accordingly, this notice announces the Administrator's approval of the DOI Plan.

DATE: This approval is effective September 15, 1982.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John MacDonald, Office of Pesticides

and Toxic Substances Enforcement (EN-342), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 3220H, 401 M St. SW., Washington, D.C. 20460 (202-382-5598).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DOI Plan at present applies only to employees of the Bureau of Land Management. If the Department should at a later date wish to include others under the certification plan, the submittal and approval of a new certification plan or an amendment to this certification plan will be required.

Summary of Plan

Federal employees are considered by EPA to be commercial applicators. The DOI's Plan certifies its employees in the following commercial applicator categories: Agriculture Pest Control—Plant; Forest Pest Control; Ornamental and Turf Pest Control; Aquatic Pest Control; Right-of-Way Pest Control; Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Control; Public Health Pest Control; and Demonstration and Research Pest Control.

Certification is based on the taking and passing of a written examination and is valid for a period not to exceed three years. Recertification will also require the taking and passing of a written examination. It is anticipated that training for certification and recertification will often be provided by outside organizations, most especially the Department of Defense which has an approved certification plan in operation. When training is provided by outside organizations, a Department of the Interior examination will still have to be passed before certification or recertification is granted.

Certified applicators will be issued a certificate and wallet-size identification card to be carried when applying pesticides or supervising their use. These documents will identify the certified applicator, the category in which the applicator is certified, the date of issuance, expiration date, and issuing authority. Examples of these documents are contained in the Plan.

General use and restricted use pesticides will be applied either by a certified applicator or by a person under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. The certified applicator will retain responsibility for the actions of the non-certified applicator and be available if and when required.

The Plan provides for the hiring of non-DOI employees for pest control operations. Such persons must be certified commercial applicators, or under the direct supervision of a certified commercial applicator, before