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Note to John A. Griffin  
Special Assistant to Commissioner Larson

**BURIAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN MINNESOTA**

Howard Shapar is preparing a reply to John Badalich's letter of November 2 regarding the burial of radioactive wastes in Minnesota. I have no information immediately available concerning the statement made by AEC counsel at the Monticello hearing but I do want to pass on to you promptly the following:

- The December 1966 burial by 3M Company of natural uranium and thorium (in the form of contamination on equipment, etc.) -- a total of 4.83 millicuries, according to their report to Badalich -- was authorized by Section 20.304 of AEC regulations (Part 20). Prior AEC approval is not required in such situations.
- The July 1967 burial of 35.6 millicuries of enriched uranium and the November 1968 burial of 3.5 millicuries of enriched uranium were similarly authorized under Section 20.304. (This uranium undoubtedly was enriched to 93% since this is the material 3M requested and was granted a license to possess and use.)
- It should be kept in mind, however, that Appendix C of Part 20 was amended, effective May 22, 1970, and that the amendment, among other things, reduced the quantity of uranium 235 that may be disposed of by burial in soil by a factor of 5,000. (The Appendix C value was changed from 50 microcuries to 0.01 microcurie. A single burial may consist of up to 1,000 times the Appendix C value.) Thus, the 1967 and 1968 burials of enriched uranium would not be authorized under current AEC regulations unless a specific exemption was requested and granted.

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11/16/70

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11/18/70

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