

NOV 7 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

THROUGH: C. J. Paperiello, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and
Radiological Protection Branch

FROM: M. C. Schumacher, Chief, Independent Measurements and
Environmental Protection Section

SUBJECT: SCA LANDFILL, KAWKAWLIN, MICHIGAN

The attached report (99990003/84-74) relates NRC activities for the period May 1, 1984, to August 26, 1984, concerning containment measures being taken by the State of Michigan at the SCA landfill and adjacent state property which are both heavily contaminated with toxic chemicals and also thorium-magnesium foundry slag. The measures include construction (by SCA and its contractors) of a slurry wall and clay cap to encapsulate the contaminating pursuant to a site closure agreement being worked out with SCA. The agreement, if ratified, would also have SCA install similar containment measures on the State's property.

Toxic chemicals are recognized by the State as the most important potential health hazard at the site. However, the NRC has been requested to provide assurance that the containment measures being taken for the chemicals are acceptable for the radiological materials. Information obtained from an NRC sponsored ORAU survey conducted July 11-24, 1984, will be used in the evaluation together with information provided by the State regarding suitability for the toxic chemicals. NMSS is expected to participate in the evaluation.

Whatever the determination, the solution being pursued appears to be the best option presently available. The mixture of chemical and radioactive contamination makes the material unacceptable at disposal sites dedicated to either. Moreover, the radioactive material appears retrievable should future condition require it. Meanwhile, the material will be effectively isolated from the public.

M. C. Schumacher, Chief
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