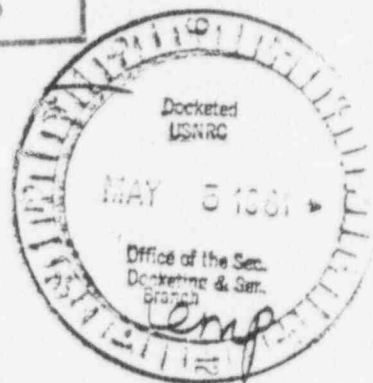




American Association of Physicists in Medicine

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES



April 23, 1981

DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

356

PR-20

(45 FR 67018)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Secretary of the Commission

Dear Sirs:



The Commission is to be commended for its fast action on the proposed rule change involving the declaration of ^3H and ^{14}C liquid scintillation waste as non-radioactive. This action shifts the regulating authority from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to the Environmental Protection Agency. As you are aware, ^3H and ^{14}C constitute only a fraction of the total problem. Although ^3H and ^{14}C are the predominate isotopes used in biomedical research, many other isotopes are involved in liquid scintillation waste as well.

This letter is to request the investigation of establishing similar limits of other isotopes which may be declared non-radioactive in liquid scintillation fluids and animal carcasses. The enclosed letter from the State of Washington states (on the second page) that after December 31, 1982 no liquid scintillation waste will be accepted for burial. Unless the Commission begins investigating alternatives and proposed rule changes, most major biomedical research centers which do not have incineration available will be faced with waste which cannot be disposed of properly.

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has a Radiation Protection Committee which has been active in waste disposal activities and it has a task force with Jean St. Germain of the Sloan-Kettering Medical Center as chairman. We offer our assistance to the Commission in drafting acceptable proposed rules to address this impending problem.

Very truly yours,

George R. Holeman

George R. Holeman, Chairman
Radiation Protection Committee

8105210001

GRH:cm

Enclosure

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Member Society of the American Institute of Physics



STATE OF
WASHINGTON

Dixy Lee Ray
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Olympia, Washington 98504

October 24, 1980

100

CC 114
115
135

TO: All Site Use Permit Holders.

FROM: T. R. Strong, Head
Radiation Control Section

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES

Contrary to what you may be hearing or seeing, the State of Washington has determined not to change its policy with regard to the reinstatement of suspended site use permits for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

- Reinstatement of a suspended permit will continue to be made only after the permit holder's waste generation procedures and quality assurance program have been evaluated by Washington and found adequate.
- We strongly recommend, but do not require, that the licensing agency with jurisdiction, NRC or an Agreement State, inspect the permit holder's waste generation facilities and procedures prior to reinstatement. The basis for the review and audit of the permit holder's waste generation facilities and procedures should be the audit program developed by the Waste Generation Committee of the Atomic Industrial Forum or an equivalent procedure.
- It is again suggested, but not required, that the Washington Radiation Control Section receive a written report from the permit holder's regulatory agency describing the results of that inspection.

As one of Washington's site use permit holders you have received a copy of our regulations, WAC 402-19-530. These regulations state clearly that each generator/packager and each broker must have a site use permit whenever both are involved in the shipment of low-level radioactive waste to Washington. Further, Washington's regulations require that both the generator and the broker(s), when both are in any way involved, must sign the form certifying to the State of Washington that applicable regulations have been met and that the State of Washington is indemnified from all losses associated with the waste shipments in question. In both of these situations, that is, the permits and the certification forms, it has come to our attention that all generators of waste have not applied for site use permits, nor have all generators and brokers been signing the certification form. We are alert to these situations and are informed by our assistant attorney general that irregularities in these areas constitute a clear violation of the regulations and Governor Dixy Lee Ray's Executive Order 79-09 issued November 19, 1979, and may result in the suspension of site use permits.

October 24, 1980

Several conditions of the Nuclear Engineering Company's radioactive materials license deal with authorized waste forms. These license conditions may require generators to change their waste handling procedures in the future. Waste received by NECo after the effective date of the license conditions must be in an authorized waste form. The effective dates and authorized waste forms are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Waste Form</u>	<u>License Condition No.</u>
December 31, 1980	Liquids containing more than 1% oil must be either solidified, i.e., have no detectable free-standing liquid (not more than 0.5% or one gallon per container, whichever is less); or, absorbed with twice the absorbency required for the total volume of liquid.	26, 27
January 1, 1981	Liquids (not otherwise specified) must be absorbed or solidified; solidified liquids shall have no detectable free-standing liquid (not more than 0.5% or one gallon per container, whichever is less).	27
	Absorbed liquids must be absorbed by enough approved absorbent material to absorb twice the amount of liquid present.	27
	Dewatered ion exchange resins and filter media must have no detectable free-standing liquids (not more than 0.5% or one gallon per container, whichever is less).	27f
June 30, 1981	Ion exchange resins and filter media containing radioactive material having a concentration of 1 $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$ or greater of materials with half-life greater than 5 years must be stabilized by solidification.	27(k)
December 31, 1982	Liquid scintillation vials, fluids and other organics and liquids in 50 milliliter vials for clinical or laboratory testing are NOT ACCEPTABLE.	27(b) and 27(c)

The dates for compliance with the license conditions were established so as to give industry and government the necessary lead time to make changes in waste handling equipment and processes. This memo serves as additional notification to waste handlers and generators of the conditions for waste acceptance at Washington's site.

All Site Use Permit Holders

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October 24, 1980

These statements of clarification concerning Washington's regulations are made in an attempt to further assure that existing and long-standing state and federal regulations governing the generation, preparation, packaging, and transportation of low-level radioactive waste have been adhered to before such waste arrives in the State of Washington; and to eliminate any misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the permit and certification requirements in the regulations of the State of Washington and the conditions in the Nuclear Engineering Company's radioactive materials license.

If you have questions, contact either me or Lee Gronemyer at 206-753-3462.

TRS:mb

cc: Michael Hanbey
Assistant Attorney General
Nevada
South Carolina
Agreement States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission