



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

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January 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR: Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
FROM: *Frank Ingram*
Frank Ingram, Assistant to the Director
Public Affairs
SUBJECT: FINAL RULE ON WASTE OIL INCINERATION

This refers to your December 15, 1989, memorandum "Office Concurrence Request: Final Rule to Allow Onsite Incineration of Slightly Contaminated Waste Oil at Nuclear Power Reactors".

This office may have, at one time, determined that a public announcement of this action would not be required. However, in the meantime, the "below-regulatory-concern" issue has become a matter of some interest to the public and a public announcement of this action, while not directly related, now is warranted.

Accordingly, a draft public announcement of the action is attached. Any changes and/or comments should be reviewed by this office before the paper is finalized. In addition, "item i" on page four of the draft paper should be changed to read: "A public announcement will be issued when the final rule is published in the Federal Register."

Attachment:
As stated

cc: Beth Hayden, w/cpy att.

(Draft)

NRC TO PERMIT ON-SITE INCINERATION OF CONTAMINATED WASTE OILS
AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SITES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to permit the on-site incineration of waste oils used in nuclear plants and contaminated with very small amounts of radioactive materials.

Previously, utility operators of nuclear power plants had to dispose of contaminated waste oils at a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility unless the license authorizing operation of the facility were specifically amended by the NRC staff to permit on-site incineration.

This action is being taken in partial response to a July 1984 petition for rulemaking submitted by the Edison Electric Institute and the Utility Nuclear Waste Management Group.

As amended, the regulations will permit the on-site incineration of waste oils--petroleum derived or synthetic oils used principally as lubricants, coolants, hydraulic or insulating fluids or metalworking oils--that have been contaminated with small amounts of radioactive materials in the course of the operation or maintenance of a nuclear power plant.

Incineration will be permitted in an existing on-site boiler or incinerator or in an on-site facility specifically constructed for the purpose.

(Draft)

In this case, a limit on the amount of radioactive materials contained in waste oil below which the product could be incinerated has not been established. Instead, utilities still will have to meet the NRC's existing requirements limiting the total releases of radioactive effluents, including those from waste-oil incineration, to specified "as-low-as-reasonably achievable" levels.

The amendment to Part 20 of the NRC's regulations will become effective on (date).

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