

JUN 7 - 1985

WM19/LSP/5/22/85

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Donald A. Nussbaumer
Assistant Director for
Agreement State Programs
Office of State Programs

FROM: Leo B. Higginbotham, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: COMMENT FROM STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA REGARDING NUMBER OF
SPECIMENS REQUIRED FOR 10 CFR PART 61 WASTE FORM TESTING

The purpose of this memo is to address the comment from Virgil Autrey of the State of South Carolina concerning the number of specimens generally required by NRC for 10 CFR Part 61 waste form testing.

Several considerations were important in making the determination that a minimum of duplicate specimens are acceptable for each waste form test.

NRC has examined the performance of generic types of solidification agents and found under most test conditions that solidification products generally far exceed the minimum 50 psi test criterion for the compressive strength of solidified forms. Secondly, requiring more than duplicate specimens for six to seven tests and five to six waste streams would generate from 70 to 80 additional test specimens. The expense associated with these specimens can be significant. Finally, NRC requires solidification and testing of multiple specimens from a full scale product as well as development of process control parameters to assure correlation of test results with actual solidified products sent to burial. We, therefore, believe that duplicate specimens will produce an adequate base on which to review the acceptability of solidification agents.

If we may be of further assistance in this matter, please contact Roy Person of my staff at 427-4513.

Original signed by
Leo B. Higginbotham

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Leo B. Higginbotham, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Uranium
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