

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Marvin M. Mann, Assistant Director, Compliance, DATE: April 7, 1958
Division of Inspection, Headquarters

FROM : R. W. Smith, Director, Inspection Division,
San Francisco Operations Office

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES BY OCEAN BURIAL

SYMBOL: I:RWS

Enclosed for consideration and action is a letter dated April 3, 1958 from Mr. R. A. Reinke of the California Department of Public Health.

The first series of questions posed by Mr. Reinke have been prompted by their knowledge of the plans that Reed-Curtis Nuclear Division has for bulk disposal of radioactive waste into the ocean. It is our understanding that Reed-Curtis Nuclear Division of American Electronics, Inc. now has an application pending before the Division of Licensing and Regulation to permit them to carry out such bulk disposal.

It would therefore be appreciated if you would relay these questions on to NLR for their consideration in connection with Reed-Curtis Nuclear Division's application. It would also be appreciated if NLR would furnish the answers to these questions directly to Mr. Reinke, with copy of such reply to this office.

In addition, it would be appreciated if NLR would similarly handle the second set of questions raised in Mr. Reinke's letter concerning the general conditions expected in ocean burial. It is recognized that these are questions to which the Commission may or may not have specific data, a fact that I feel Mr. Reinke appreciates. The reason that they have not been formally raised before has been due to the expectation that the Commission would have acted by this time on a proposal submitted by Scripps Institute of Oceanography to the Engineering Development Branch of the Division of Reactor Development for a study specifically geared to provide West-Coast data on these questions.

Since this study has not been forthcoming, Mr. Reinke feels that it is now appropriate to specifically raise these questions in the expectation of receiving some reasonable assurance that the Commission has a basis for concluding that ocean burial is not hazardous to the public health and safety.

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SERVIC M. Mann

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The second question of this set, incidentally, has been particularly prompted by Nuclear Engineering Company's use of asphalt-coated drums without concrete interliner under Byproduct Material License 4-2314-1.

Enclosure:

Letter from E. A. Reinks
dated 4/3/58, 2 copies

