



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH
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INTERNET: mmnoble@mail.state.tn.us

December 31, 1996

Dr. Shirley Jackson, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Jackson:

I was recently provided with a copy of the November 22, 1995 *EPA/NRC Risk Harmonization White Paper*. Subsequently, I learned that the paper was only a draft and was being reviewed by a subcommittee of ISCORS. There are two very important issues that are not appropriately addressed in the November 22, 1995 draft. They are:

1. On Page 15, statements regarding the different approaches for air emissions make it appear that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard is more protective because the EPA approach addresses more pathways. In reality, it has been demonstrated by EPA and others that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) standard is actually more protective than the EPA's. In addition, the NRC standard has been in effect for over 20 years and provides protection regardless of the location of the nearest resident, i.e., facilities designed under the EPA standard may not protect individuals that move closer to the facility later. Finally, not a single licensed facility was found to be out of compliance with the EPA standard.
2. On Page 22, it is stated that the EPA's draft low-level waste standard provides a level of protection for groundwater specified at the drinking water standard of 4 mrem/year. This is not true! The EPA drinking water standard does not limit releases of uranium at all. The proposed drinking water standard (recently rescinded by an act of Congress) allows doses of 1.3 to 4.6 E8 mrem/year for the different isotopes of uranium. The drinking water standard allows other radionuclides at various doses in addition to the uranium and the 4 mrem/year

Chairman Jackson
December 31, 1996
2

beta/gamma standard for manmade radionuclides. This problem is very serious from the state perspective since states regulate all radionuclides, not just those addressed under the Atomic Energy Act. In Tennessee, the problem with uranium is also very serious as there are several facilities with various unique isotopic uranium disposal potentials. Obviously, these would not be adequately addressed under the EPA scheme.

In the evaluation of any proposal, it is important to completely understand its' full impact. Without a complete understanding of the issues, it is possible to make a grave error in judgment. In this case, without a full assessment of the facts and an understanding of the issues, everyone might conclude that a standard which actually would provide less protection is the best standard. It is necessary to get beyond the agency hype and actually determine the effect of the standard.

I would appreciate your forwarding this information to the appropriate individuals to insure its inclusion in the continuing development of this document.

Sincerely,



for Michael H. Mobley
Director

MHM:sk

epa-nrc/rhnm96#4

Distribution List:

Commissioner Greta Dicus
Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers
Commissioner Edward McGaffigan
Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
William P. Dornsife, Chairman, CRCPD

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FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G970028
DOC DT: 12/31/96
FINAL REPLY:

Michael H. Mobley
Dept. of Environment and Conservation
State of Tennessee

TO:

Comm. McGaffigan

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO:

DESC:

ROUTING:

COMMENTS ON EPA/NRC RISK HARMONIZATION WHITE
PAPER

Thompson
Jordan
Norry
Blaha
Bangart, SP
Morrison, RES

DATE: 01/15/97

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Paperiello

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For appropriate action.



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EXM _____
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CSG _____
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1/8/96
1/8/96

December 31, 1996

Edward McGaffigan, Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Linda - NMSS +
CE20 should receive
a copy of this letter
- last
1/8

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Commissioner McGaffigan

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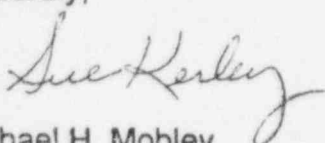
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