



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 13, 1996

PDR: per
D. MOSSBURG

Mr. Thomas W. Ortziger, Director
State of Illinois
Department of Nuclear Safety
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Dear Mr. Ortziger:

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 1996, in which you commented on the July 24, 1996 letter of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) concerning its view on what constitutes an adequate low-level radioactive waste program. As you may be aware, in response to a Commission request, the ACNW provided a December 29, 1995 report to the Commission regarding SECY-95-201, "Alternatives to Terminating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Program." A copy of that ACNW report is enclosed. The July 24, 1996 letter to which you referred is a result of the Committee's continuing discussions and evolving thoughts on this topic.

On September 13, 1996, the Commission issued Press Release No. 96-121, "NRC Seeks Public Comment on Agency's Strategic Assessment of Regulatory Activities." Accompanying that Press Release was a copy of the relevant stakeholder involvement process paper, which contained a number of separate Direction-Setting Issue (DSI) papers.

Press Release No. 96-121 stated the Commission's request that stakeholders focus on the following in preparing their response to the NRC:

- "1. What, if any, important considerations may have been omitted from the issue papers?
2. How accurate are the NRC's assumptions and projections for internal and external factors discussed in the issue papers?
3. Do the Commission's preliminary views associated with each issue paper respond to the current environment and challenges?

Additionally, the Commission is seeking comments on specific questions identified in the 'Preliminary Commission View' section of each issue paper."

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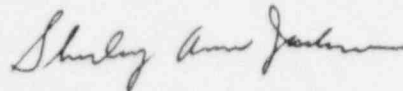
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DSI 4, "NRC'S Relationship with Agreement States," and DSI 5, "Low-Level Waste," are both relevant to the items raised in your letter, and your comments will, I am certain, be taken into consideration. A copy of Press Release No. 96-121 and the DSI's issued with it are also enclosed.

The NRC has conducted three public conferences to discuss the issue papers and to obtain comments from stakeholders. The Commission appreciated the participation of the IDNS representative in the first stakeholder meeting that was held in Washington on October 24 and 25, and at the November 7 and 8 meeting at the Chicago Ramada O'Hare.

Sincerely,



Shirley Ann Jackson

Enclosures:

1. Report dated December 29, 1995, from Paul W. Pomeroy, ACNW Chairman, to Shirley Ann Jackson, NRC Chairman, Subject: Comments on SECY-95-201 and the NRC Activities Regarding Low-Level Radioactive Waste
2. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Public Affairs, Press Release No. 96-121, "NRC Seeks Public Comment on Agency's Strategic Assessment of Regulatory Activities," dated September 13, 1996, with accompanying Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining Initiative documents