

February 10, 1997

Mr. John G. O'Brien
General Manager
Stepan Company
100 West Hunter Avenue
Maywood, NJ 07607

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO POSTPONE INITIATION OF DECOMMISSIONING OF
ONSITE BURIALS PER 10 CFR 40.42(f)

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed your November 20, 1996, letter to Michael Weber, requesting to postpone the initiation of the decommissioning process for the three burials authorized under License STC-1333. The staff has determined that postponement is not detrimental to public health and is otherwise in the public interest and is, therefore, approved in accordance with 10 CFR 40.42(f).

The staff's approval is based on the fact that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has responsibility for the decommissioning of the licensed burials under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). In addition, continued groundwater and surface monitoring, in accordance with License STC-1333, provides assurance that the buried material is not migrating or causing exposure to workers or the public in the current configuration. Postponement is authorized until DOE initiates decommissioning of the burials.

If you have any questions, please contact David N. Fauver on 301-415-6625.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]
John W. N. Hickey, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. N. Hickey", is written over the typed name.

John W. N. Hickey, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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