

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Jim Hichtower

SECY NUMBER: 85-789

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

LOGGING DATE 9/17/85

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Jim Hichtower --Commissioner of Agriculture

AFFILIATION: Austin, Texas

LETTER DATE: 9/11/85

ADDRESSEE: Palladino

SUBJECT: NRC's participation in hearings on the U.S. DOE's site-selection program for the pro hl nuc waste repository

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: RF

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

SIGNATURE DATE:

FOR THE COMMISSION Champcys: Davis
Dircks
Roe
Rehm
Stello
GCunningham
Kerr, SP
Minogue
Denton

FILE CODE _____

Rec'd Off. EDO

Date: 9-19-85

Time: 8 A

WM Record File

123

WM Project 1

Docket No.

PDR ☒

LPDR

Distribution:

REB MJB JOB Joan-ticket
CRussell DRM HJM WKerr Sae
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

G. SANBORN - IV

8509300385 850911
PDR WASTE PDR
WM-1WM DOCKET CONTROL
CENTRAL



COMMISSIONER
OF AGRICULTURE

P. O. BOX 12847
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • (512) 463-7435

September 11, 1985

Commissioner Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent attention in Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearings to the U.S. Department of Energy's site-selection program for the proposed high-level nuclear waste repository. Your careful oversight is critical, since serious procedural and substantive flaws in the DOE program threaten to short-circuit the site-selection process outlined by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and by DOE in the Guidelines approved by the NRC.

In particular, DOE's recent proposal to declare three sites as "suitable" even before conducting detailed geologic site characterization is absurd, and I urge you to oppose it. Even an above-ground look at the Texas sites shows that it would make much more sense to declare them unsuitable without further study. These sites are located on some of Texas' most productive farmland over the nation's largest fresh-water aquifer. DOE is worried that they might be a little late on their schedule, but we are worried that they might ruin our land and water forever.

This new DOE ploy is just the latest in a series of foul plays that have seriously undermined public trust in the nuclear waste program. DOE came into Texas in the first place without a systematic national screening program to find the best possible sites. Then they named two Texas sites and later moved them, giving affected landowners no opportunity for comment.

The concerns of Texas citizens are echoed at all of the proposed repository sites. The Texas Department of Agriculture joins with the citizens of every state affected by the nuclear waste program in protesting this latest nonsensical request, and we join with these citizens in asking for a fair nationwide screening to pick the best possible dump site.

Sincerely,


JIM HIGHTOWER

JH:jba