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WM-7

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
200 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540

WM-8

October 30, 1978

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

With my letter of July 26, 1978, I forwarded to you a prepublication manuscript copy of the report on our study of the scientific and technological problems associated with the conversion of liquid and semiliquid, high-level radioactive wastes into a stable form for transportation and disposition.

While that manuscript was being prepared for publication it came to our attention that some aspects of the data base used in the report were being questioned. Because of the importance of the substance of this study and its recommendations, we have stopped distributing the prepublication version; printing of the report has been delayed until this matter can be resolved by our Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and its Panel on Radioactive Waste Solidification. Since a number of copies of the prepublication report had already been distributed, we plan to furnish you with a supplemental statement as soon as the data base has been rechecked. At this writing, I am unable to ascertain how seriously these additional considerations may affect the principal conclusions and recommendations of the report.

I regret this delay in the availability of the final printed report. The national interest, however, will best be served by this additional assurance that the study is based on adequate consideration of all relevant technical information.

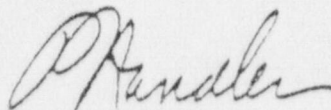
I understand that under the circumstances, you will probably consider it necessary to distribute the prepublication version for public comment. I have therefore directed my staff to make available to you a camera-ready manuscript of the prepublication version for your use, should you so require.

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I trust that this letter will be attached to all copies of
the prepublication version of the report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Handler".

Philip Handler
President