

November 3, 1999

Mr. Tom O'Brien
Office of State Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

In reference to NRC's request for technical information (SP-99-074), Mississippi's response is as follows:

Question 42:

Mississippi has only definitions for the following terms:

"Byproduct material" means:

(1) any radioactive material, except special nuclear material, yielded in or made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident to the process of producing or utilizing special nuclear material; and

(2) the tailings or wastes produced by the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium from ore processed primarily for its source material content, including discrete surface wastes resulting from uranium or thorium solution extraction processes. Underground ore bodies depleted by these solution extraction operations do not constitute "byproduct material" within this definition.

"Waste" means those low-level radioactive wastes that are acceptable for disposal in a land disposal facility. For the purposes of this definition, low-level waste has the same meaning as in the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act, P.L. 96-573, as amended by P.L. 99-240, effective January 15, 1986; that is, radioactive waste (a) not classified as high-level radioactive waste, transuranic waste, spent nuclear fuel, or byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act (uranium or thorium tailings and waste) and (b) classified as low-level radioactive waste consistent with existing law and in accordance with (a) by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Question 43:

The State of Mississippi utilizes the NRC regulatory guides, such as Regulatory Guide

1.86. At least one licensee has referenced Table 1: "Acceptable surface contamination levels," from this guide in their procedures as the acceptable limits for the decommissioning of their facility. We have also referenced this table in our NORM regulations in Section 801.N.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (601) 987-6893.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Goff, Director
Mississippi State Department of Health
Division of Radiological Health

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