

August 31, 1979

Mr. James G. Keppler, Director  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter is in response to IE Bulletin No. 79-19 concerning the packaging of low level radioactive waste for transport and burial. The Dow Chemical Company concurs with efforts of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to improve the status of safe packaging and transport of low level radioactive waste for burial. However, the thrust of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission effort should be towards correcting the abusers of the transport and burial legal system.

The Dow Chemical Company has and will continue to comply with all Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation regulations regarding packaging and transport of low level radioactive waste. We maintain a current set of license requirements placed on the waste burial firm by those Agreement States in which The Dow Chemical Company's low level radioactive waste is buried. Our low level radioactive waste is packaged in accordance with the burial criteria established by the Agreement States.

By law, a burial firm is required to maintain public burial records for inspection. Therefore information pertaining to waste buried by The Dow Chemical Company is a matter of public records and can be extracted from said records.

Pursuant to Item 9 of IE Bulletin No. 79-19, The Dow Chemical Company provides the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with the following information:

1. The Dow Chemical Company shipped 745.5 ft<sup>3</sup> of low level radioactive waste to Barnwell, South Carolina on April 19, 1979. No burial shipments were made in 1978.
2. The burial shipment contained 16.279343 Curies. The major isotopes in the shipment were carbon-14 and tritium.
3. Liquid low level radioactive waste was solidified by Dow media. Dow media is a Chem-Nuclear Systems Inc. (CNSI) recognized solidification process that results in a material meeting the burial standards of CNSI.

AN OPERATING UNIT OF THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY



A-9

7910010281 XA  
2PP

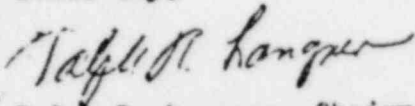
Mr. James G. Keppler

2

August 31, 1979

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should investigate the packaging and transport operating procedures of those offenders who do not comply with the law rather than burdening those licensees who package and transport low level radioactive waste properly. The Dow Chemical Company has operated within the confines of the Federal Regulations and therefore, should not be subject to a "paper harassment" that is unnecessary, unwarranted and most important, unproductive for the industry.

Sincerely,



Ralph R. Langner, Chairman  
Radiation Safety Committee  
Health & Environmental Science  
1603 Building  
517/636-4344

bjd

cc: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Inspection and Enforcement,  
Division of Fuel Facility and Materials Safety inspection,  
Washington, DC 20555