January 5, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers

Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-99-272 - AGREEMENT STATE COMPATIBILITY FOR

CRITICALITY REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO LOW-LEVEL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

The Commission has disapproved the staff's proposal to revise the compatibility of 10 CFR 61.16(b)(2) from category NRC to category Health and Safety and finalize the emplacement criticality guidance on the grounds that such actions are unnecessary for adequate protection of public health and safety.

The Commission does not believe there is a need for Staff to continue to analyze the potential for accidental criticality resulting from waste emplacement at a low level waste repository which meets the requirements for 10 CFR Part 61.

cc: Chairman Meserve

Commissioner Dicus Commissioner Diaz

Commissioner McGaffigan Commissioner Merrifield

OGC

CIO

CFO OCA

OIG

OPA

Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)

PDR

DCS