



Subject: NRC study on characterization of RH transuranic waste

Date: Fri, 29 Jun 2001 18:32:30 -0400

From: "Barbara Pastina" <bpastina@nas.edu>

To: Steve_Zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us

Dear Steve

I am directing a new NRC study on the characterization of the remote-handled (RH) transuranic waste to be disposed of in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP). The DOE-Carlsbad Field Office asked the National Research Council (NRC) to review its new plan for characterizing RH waste in order to submit a certification application to the EPA for this type of waste. I am now constituting the committee and finding potential speakers to give presentations to the committee. To avoid conflict of interest, I am looking for university scientists or former national laboratories employees that are knowledgeable on RH transuranic waste-related issues. Governmental and national laboratories employees or contractors for the national laboratories are not eligible to be committee members.

The study statement of task and the required expertise are reported below. Please, let me know by July 6 if you have any name you would like me to consider as nominee for the committee or speaker. I can be contacted at the telephone number below after July 10.

Best regards,

Barbara Pastina

STATEMENT OF TASK

The objective of this study is to review and evaluate DOE's plan to characterize remote-handled transuranic waste to be disposed of at the WIPP. The committee will provide recommendations, as needed, for improving the plan's technical soundness, protection of worker safety, and compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. This study does not address transportation issues related to RH waste.

Examples of criteria that could be used by the committee to review DOE's characterization plan for RH waste are the following: validity of the assumptions used for the proposed plan, quality of information available on RH waste; sensitivity of overall system safety to uncertainties in the waste specifications, and validity of DOE's conclusions concerning its characterization plan.

Expertise Required:

Actinide and physical chemistry; health physics; radiation detection and statistical analysis; regulatory aspects of RH characterization and waste acceptance criteria for the WIPP; risk assessment; waste characterization,

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management, and treatment technologies; history of RH waste generation.

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