

January 19, 2010

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MICHIGAN

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) SAFETY GUIDE "DS356: NEAR SURFACE DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE" (FSME-10- 005)

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to comment on the draft IAEA safety guide "DS356: Near Surface Disposal of Radioactive Waste".

Background: The proposed IAEA Safety Guide is intended to provide guidance to international users on the disposal of a wide range of radioactive waste appropriate for near surface disposal. The guidance is provided for information, in consideration of IAEA methodology and approach. It may be considered by certain international users as a point of reference among other consensus and international guides. IAEA recommends that this guidance, when used, be applied in accordance with the graded approach, consistent with the intrinsic hazard presented by the waste to be disposed.

Comments are requested in relation to:

- 1) Relevance and usefulness: are the stated safety objectives of the standard appropriate, and are they met by the document?
- 2) Scope and completeness: is the stated scope appropriate and is that scope adequately covered by the document?
- 3) Quality and clarity: do the requirements/guidance in the document represent the current consensus among specialists in the field, and are they expressed clearly and coherently?

Discussion: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking comment on the proposed changes to IAEA Safety Guide DS 356 "Near Surface Disposal of Radioactive Waste". Comments from the United States, and other Member States and International Organizations will be considered by the IAEA. The draft safety guides can be found at: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/downloads/standards/drafts/ds356.pdf>. We would appreciate receiving your comments by March 1, 2010. Please send your comments to the contact individual listed below.

*This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 08/31/2010. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individual named below.

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