

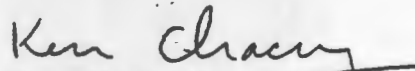
**memorandum**

DATE: JAN 22 1990

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: EM-343SUBJECT: Status of DOE-HQ/EH Proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Establishing Vitrification as the Treatment Standard for High-Level WasteTO: A. L. Watkins, DOE-SR/DWPF  
R. Brown, DOE-RL/HWVP  
W. Bixby, DOE-ID/WVDP  
J. Lyle, DOE-ID

Based on a recent series of conversations and meetings with DOE-HQ/EH and EPA Headquarters personnel, the Department has formally proposed to EPA in December 22, 1989, that the vitrification process be established as the treatment standard for the hazardous waste constituents of high-level waste (HLW) (Attachment 1). Initial reaction to this proposal by EPA was quite favorable; we expect further dialogue on this subject as the rulemaking progresses towards finalization. We can expect that EPA will request additional information and/or clarification of data provided as part of the December 22, 1989, submittal (Attachment 2). The Department feels that this is a very positive step towards recognizing the technical and regulatory adequacy of the vitrification process from an EPA perspective as well as that of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank members of your respective contractor staffs who provided data and documentation to support this proposal on very short notice. If you should have any further questions or comments regarding this proposal, please contact Tom Gutmann (FTS 233-5343) of my staff.

Kenneth A. Chacey, Acting Chief  
Vitrification Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management Projects  
Environmental Restoration  
and Waste Management

2 Attachments

CC:  
L. Waldo, EM-321  
T. Harms, EH-231  
W. Fortune, EH-231

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JAN 26 1990

DOE-RI / AMR DC/  
190-HWV-035

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