

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

Review of the programme on the management and storage of radioactive  
waste through shared-cost projects

COM(82) 775 final /2

Commission Communication to the Council

Subject : Review of the programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste through shared-cost projects.

The Commission refers to the Council Decision of March 18, 1980, (OJ No L 78 of March 25, 1980, p. 22) adopting a research and development programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste (1980 to 1984).

The Decision states that the programme "is adopted for a five-year period beginning January 1, 1980," (Article 1) and that it "shall be reviewed at the end of the second year, in accordance with the appropriate procedures" (Article 3).

At its twenty-second meeting, held on February 18 and 19, 1982, the ACPM - Management and Storage of Radioactive Waste discussed the question of reviewing the programme and adopted the Opinion annexed hereto.

Having consulted the ACPM, the Commission is now in a position to express an opinion concerning the revision of the programme. The Commission considers that the activities defined in the Annex to the programme remain topical and should be continued. It recommends, however, that efforts be stepped up as regards the assessment of all categories of conditioned waste in order to ensure that it is stored and/or disposed of in the best possible conditions.

The Commission wishes to emphasise that the concerted studies on the evaluation of geological formations, as regards their suitability for the confinement of radioactive waste, which are now being prepared for the programme period 1983-1984, represent a significant development in the iterative process whereby the safety assessment of radioactive waste disposal is gradually being consolidated.

Since the activities and general guidelines referred to above do not call into question the programme's initial objectives, the Commission considers it unnecessary for the current programme to be reviewed.

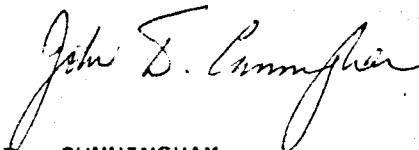
OPINION

In response to the Council Decision of 18 MARCH 1980(+) adopting a second programme (1980-84) on the management and storage of radioactive waste, and in particular Article 3 thereof concerning its review at the end of the second year, the Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) for the management and storage of radioactive waste, at its 22nd meeting on 18 and 19 February 1982, examined the question whether it was advisable to modify the objectives of the programme.

The Committee:

1. considers that the programme has so far been conducted very satisfactorily and fully in accordance with the opinions of the Committee;
2. considers that the activities listed in the Annex to the Council Decision of 18 March 1980 are still of current interest and should be continued;
3. recommends, however, that work on the evaluation of all categories of conditioned waste be intensified with a view to guaranteeing their storage and/or disposal under the most favourable conditions;
4. emphasizes that the concerted studies concerning evaluation of the suitability of geological formations for containing radioactive waste which are in preparation for the 1983-84 period of the programme are a significant development in the iteration process which should result in progressive consolidation of the evaluation of the safety of radioactive waste disposal;
5. is of the opinion that the projects and guidelines set out above supplement rather than conflict with the original objectives of the programme, and that, in consequence, it is not necessary to revise the current programme.

Done at Brussels, 19 February 1982.



J.D. CUNNINGHAM  
Chairman of the ACPM for R & D

(+) OJ N° L 78 of 25.3.1980, p 22.