



Abteilung für die Sicherheit der Kernanlagen
Division pour la Sécurité des Installations Nucléaires
Divisione per la Sicurezza degli Impianti Nucleari

5303 Würenlingen / Schweiz

Tel. 056 / 98 28 53

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Mr. I.G.K. Williams

Director General of the Nuclear

Energy Agency (NEA)

38, Boulevard Suchet

F-75016 P a r i s

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5303 Würenlingen

AJ/sc

December 7, 1979

Gegenstand / Objet / Oggetto: Notification to NEA of the Sea Dumping Operation 1980

Dear Sir:

In accordance with article 3 of the NEA agreement on the multilateral consultation and surveillance mechanism for sea dumping of radioactive wastes, C(77) 115(final), we wish to inform you that Switzerland will take part in a joint Belgium-Netherlands-Switzerland sea dumping operation of radioactive wastes in 1980.

In conformity with the notification format given in SEN/MSD/(77)8, Annex I, we submit the following information:

1. Name of Country: Switzerland
2. Legal and Administrative Measures:

Switzerland has signed the London Convention, and its ratification has taken place in 1979. For the purpose of matters concerning radioactive materials, the Federal Office of Energy is designated as competent authority. Within this Office, the Nuclear Safety Division carries the responsibility. The Office will grant a special permit for the envisaged operation, provided the Federal Institute for Reactor Research, which will be responsible for the organization of the Swiss participation in the operation, can show that all pertinent conditions of the London Convention, the IAEA Recommendations, and the NEA Guidelines and Procedures are fulfilled.

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3. Timetable of Operation:

It is intended to carry out the dumping operation in the month of June 1980

4. Approximate Indication of Waste to be Dumped:

It is intended to dump all waste in standard 200 liter drums and in 1000 liter concrete containers with a total mass of approximately 300 tonnes.

The activity will approximately be

8 Ci α , including 1,5 Ci Ra-226
800 Ci β/γ , excluding tritium
52'000 Ci tritium

The β/γ activity will mainly be Fe-55, Co-58, Co-60, Cs-134 and Cs-137.

The radioactive waste will be composed of filters, sludges, incinerator ashes, metallic objects, and miscellaneous waste from laboratories. All radioactive waste is incorporated in cement. The density is always greater than 1200 kg/m³, and no closed receptacle which could float will be included.

The Swiss authorities have decided that the lead shielding in a few of the containers, which is necessary to reduce the surface dose rate and which amounts to a total mass of approximately 3 tonnes, is acceptable for sea dumping. The other packages do not contain in significant amounts any toxic substances as listed in Annex II of the Convention on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter (London convention).

5. Dumping Site:

See notification by the Netherlands.

6. Operational Procedures:

See notification by the Netherlands.

Three months before the operation, we will notify NEA of further details.

Sincerely yours,

SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE OF ENERGY
Nuclear Safety Division

The Chief:



P. Courvoisier

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Copy for information:

- IMCO, London
- Delegation Suisse près l'OCDE: Dr. Grübel
- Ministry of health and environmental protection, the Netherlands:
Dr. Baas, Dr. Op den Kamp
- AEW: Director Dr. Kiener
- EIR: MM. Breu, Dr. Löpfe, Schwammberger
- ASK: MM. Courvoisier, Zuber, Prêtre, Jeschki, Niederer, Aeppli, Sekr. SEPUS
- KKB, KKM, KKG
- BAG: Dr. Hunzinger