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ALL AGREEMENT STATES, CONNECTICUT, NON-AGREEMENT STATES AND
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY DRAFT SAFETY GUIDE DS512, "BOREHOLE DISPOSAL FACILITIES
FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE" (STC-21-XXX)

Purpose: To provide States with the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Safety Guide DS512, "Borehole Disposal Facilities for Radioactive Waste"¹ by January XX, 2022 to the contact listed.

Background: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has made available the Draft Safety Guide DS512, "Borehole Disposal Facilities for Radioactive Waste" for Member State review and comment. Proposed changes from Member State review will be taken into account in the finalization of the safety standards. The objective of Draft Safety Guide DS512 is to provide recommendations and guidance on the development, operation, closure, institutional control and regulation of borehole disposal facilities for disused sealed radioactive sources that have been declared radioactive waste and small amounts of low level waste and intermediate level waste generated during the management of the disused sealed radioactive sources to fulfil the safety requirements contained in IAEA's General Safety Requirements (GSR) Part 3, "Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards"; GSR Part 5, "Predisposal Management of Radioactive Waste"; and Safety Standards Requirements No. 5 (SSR-5), "Disposal of Radioactive Waste." The safety guide can also be used as a basis for reassessing and, where appropriate, upgrading the safety of existing borehole disposal facilities.

Discussion: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is coordinating the U.S. review of this safety guide. Consolidated comments will be submitted to the IAEA by the NRC through established official channels. Please provide your comments to Mathews George (mathews.george@nrc.gov) by January XX, 2022. The attached IAEA comment template is provided for your use. Any comments provided should refer to the relevant paragraph number in the draft text being reviewed and should propose alternative text, as appropriate.

The review should focus on the following:

1. Are there any safety issues that may be inconsistent with States' regulations or common practices?

¹ This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 1/31/2025. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the FOIA, Library, and Information Collections Branch (T-6 A10M), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to infocollects.resource@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, or by email to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

2. Relevance and usefulness of this document — Are the stated objectives appropriate, and are they met by the draft text? Do you have any suggestions to include in the document?
3. Scope and completeness — Is the stated scope appropriate and is it adequately covered by the draft text?
4. Quality and clarity — Does the guidance in the draft text represent the current consensus among specialists in the field, and is the guidance expressed clearly and coherently?

Comments of an editorial nature will be considered; however, it should be noted that the draft text will be comprehensively edited by the IAEA Secretariat.

Enclosed is: (1) communication from the IAEA concerning Draft Safety Guide DS512 and its review, including an “Explanatory Note” regarding this document; (2) Draft Safety Guide DS512, “Borehole Disposal Facilities for Radioactive Waste;” and (3) blank template for comment preparation.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the individual named below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Mathews George
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E-MAIL: Mathews.George@nrc.gov

Brian C. Anderson, Branch Chief
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Division of Materials Safety, Security, State,
and Tribal Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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Enclosures:

1. Explanatory Note from IAEA
2. Draft Safety Guide DS512
3. IAEA Comment Template

cc: David Crowley, OAS
Angela Leek, CRCPD