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U.S., E.C. Sign Agreement on Radioactive Waste Management Research

The European Community and the U.S. on Wednesday, October 6, signed a cooperative agreement providing for the exchange of information in the field of radioactive waste management research.

The new agreement builds on to areas of cooperation previously established between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), one of the three Communities comprising the EC, and the U.S. in such fields as nuclear safety and safeguards research and development.

The agreement, signed in Brussels by George Vest, U.S. Ambassador to the European Communities, and on behalf of the EC by EC Commission Vice President Wilhelm Haferkamp, will cover five years, with the possibility of extension thereafter.

Research programs in the field of radioactive waste management and storage already underway by both EURATOM and the U.S. Energy Department will form the basis for this new joint effort. The cooperative exchange initially will focus on two research projects-- characterizing the forms of radioactive wastes and the storage of these wastes in geological formations. Further joint activities may be added by mutual agreement.

These cooperative efforts will be carried out through the exchange of scientific and technical information, of results and of methods of research and development in this field. The agreement provides for the exchange of scientific equipment and also provides for the protection of the proprietary information of both sides.
