

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 775 final

Brussels, 26 November 1982

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

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

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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.