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COMMENTS: Steve, why is DOE not
talking with you about this?
Or, are they?

- Lokech



re Associated Press State & Local Wire May 17, 2000
The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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May 17, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle
SECTION: State and Regional

HEADLINE: Officials seek permit to dispose of toxic waste slated for incineration

DATELINE: TWIN FALLS, Idaho

BODY:

Federal officials in Idaho might not need to incinerate radioactive waste that also contains PCB oil, considered cancer-causing.

They might only need a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit to dispose of the waste untreated at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. } *

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory officials planned to build an incinerator to treat plutonium-contaminated waste now stored at the INEEL. But those plans were halted by an environmentalist lawsuit.

"Burning is not part of the picture anymore," Energy Department spokesman Dennis Hurtt said.

Energy Department and EPA officials met last week to discuss getting a permit to dispose of untreated polychlorinated biphenyl-laced radioactive waste at WIPP. } *

"It is feasible that they could receive a permit under the Toxic Substance Control Act to dispose of this waste," EPA spokesman Dave Bary said, adding approval could take a year. } *

Officials also are considering whether other options exist, but the waste still must meet WIPP criteria, he said.

INEEL manager Bev Cook has said no viable alternatives have been identified to incinerate waste with PCBs, coolant oils once used in electrical transformers. But that treatment might not be necessary with a PCB disposal permit.

Energy Department officials at WIPP have not applied for one because they did not know until recently that it would be necessary, Hurtt said.

The Energy Department in 1996 signed a \$1 billion contract to build a mixed-waste treatment plant at the INEEL. The British government-owned BNFL Inc. would build and