



# MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/5/86

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TO: Carol Oppenheimer, Chief, EID Legal

FROM: J. Mobley

SUBJECT: Price-Anderson Liability Limits

Dr. James K. Channel, Environmental Engineer with the EEG, has provided the following estimate of the maximum costs of a Transuranic waste shipment accident in New Mexico (including emergency response, post accident clean-up, loss of property use and values, personal injury and other related costs):

For the average New Mexico urban population density, the estimated maximum costs in 1986 dollars:

approximately \$35 million for a truck accident  
approximately \$70 million for a rail accident

By contrast, if one were to experience an accident in a very high population density and high land value area such as Manhattan, the total costs would be:

approximately \$750 million for a truck accident  
approximately \$1.5 billion for a rail accident

Therefore, it is safe to assume that either the \$2.2 billion or \$6.5 billion liability limits would be adequate for the near term. Unforeseen high rates of inflation or other unpredictable economic changes could render this conclusion invalid in the future, but the limits appear adequate for now.

cc: ~~18~~ Susan Martin, EID Legal  
Susan Fry, EID

