

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/9/86



TO: Denise Fort

FROM: Susan C. Martin (nee Fry)

SUBJECT: Attached

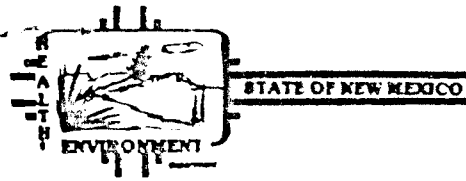
The document attached is a memo from Jack Mobley, EEG re: estimate of the maximum costs of a transuranic waste shipment accident in New Mexico in comparison with liability limits for such accidents established in House and Senate versions of the Price Anderson reauthorization.

In several calls back to environmental groups and reporters in Washington, D.C. generally, the environmental community feels they've won a victory, even with the \$2.2 billion limit. The press picked up on a comment by a representative of the Environmental Policy Center, which is not considered a "mainstream" environmental group, or a reliable spokesperson. The only other group active on the issue (in the environmental community) is the Union of Concerned Scientists, and its lobbyist, Mike Fadden, just left the group.

It is also important to remember that Chairman Dingell of the House Energy and Commerce Committee may ask for sequential referral of the Price Anderson legislation, so the battle is not yet over.

cc: Carol Oppenheimer
Jack Mobley
Bob Neill





MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/5/86

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: Susan Martin, EID Legal

✓ Susan Fry, EID