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WM Project WM-10

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Pat Larkins
Policy & Publications Management Branch, TIDC

FROM: Nancy Still
Docket Control Center
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTION OF FR NOTICE

As discussed, attached is a Federal Register Notice regarding receipt of an SCR for a candidate high-level waste repository on the Hanford Reservation in Washington. I have cut and pasted this notice to fit on one page. We request this notice be distributed to the "WH" Standard Distribution Code. If possible, I would like to suggest that this notice be distributed by being folded in half and stapled for mailing.

Please let me know if you need further information. Thank you.

1st
Nancy Still
Docket Control Center
Division of Waste Management

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PDR WASTE
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*Enclosure to 12/1/82
Ltr. from NLS to
Pot. Dasher*

[Project WM-10]

Receipt of a Site Characterization Report From the U.S. Department of Energy

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of a Site Characterization Report From the U.S. Department of Energy.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) a Site Characterization Report (SCR) for a candidate high-level waste repository on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington. This SCR was received by the Commission November 12, 1982, and has been designated as Project WM-10. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Hubert J. Miller, Chief, High-Level Waste Technical Development Branch, Division of Waste Management, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The submission of an SCR is pursuant to the Commission's procedural rule regarding disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in geologic repositories. The rule is codified at 10 CFR Part 60 and was published February 25, 1981 (46 FR 13971). In accordance with § 60.11, "As early as possible after commencement of planning for a particular geologic repository operations area, and prior to site characterization, the DOE shall submit . . . a Site Characterization Report.

The NRC staff review of this SCR is not a licensing proceeding, but an ongoing pre-application process. This process is designed to enable DOE to gather the information it needs to decide whether to apply for a license—or more specifically, an NRC authorization to

construct a repository at a particular site. The SCR review process is intended to be a vehicle for identifying at an early stage what the specific potential licensing issues are at a site based on what is known from investigations to date. It permits an opportunity for consultation between the DOE and NRC, with public involvement, on the site characterization and data gathering programs that the DOE plans in order to be able to address and resolve identified issues. To ensure continuous review of DOE activities at each site, DOE is required by NRC regulations to submit semiannual reports on the progress of site characterization.

It should also be noted that under 10 CFR Part 51, § 51.40(d), DOE is required to characterize at least three sites representing two geologic media, one of which is not salt, as "the minimum necessary to satisfy the requirements of NEPA [the National Environmental Policy Act]." DOE has informed NRC that it has ongoing studies at Yucca Mountain at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), as well as salt sites in the Gibson Dome area of Utah's Paradox Basin, the Texas Panhandle area of the Permian Basin, and four salt domes in the Gulf Interior Region in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. DOE has not notified NRC of any final decision as to which of the sites it will characterize.

The specific requirements for contents of the SCR are contained in § 60.11(a). Further guidance on preparing an SCR is contained in NRC Regulatory Guide 4.17, "Standard Format and Content of Site Characterization Reports for High-Level Waste Geologic Repositories." Copies of Reg. Guide 4.17 are available from NRC/GPO Sales Program, Division of Technical Information and Document Control, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

In accordance with § 60.11(d), the Director of NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (Director) will, over the next several months, prepare a Draft Site Characterization Analysis (Draft SCA) of the information provided in the SCR. A notice announcing the availability of this analysis and inviting the public to comment will be published in the Federal Register. A period not less than 90 days will be allowed for public comments on the Draft SCA. The Director will then prepare a final site characterization analysis issuing an opinion that the Director has either no objection to DOE's site characterization program, if such an opinion is appropriate, or specific objections to DOE's proceeding with characterization of the named site. In addition, the

Director may make specific recommendations to DOE on matters relating to its site characterization activities. This SCA will be a critique of the plans of the DOE contained in the SCR. Readers of the SCA interested in detailed aspects of the DOE site characterization program will have to consult the SCR. Therefore, to be in the best position to review the NRC SCA when it is issued, it is advised that copies of the SCR be obtained now (see the last paragraph below).

Subpart C of 10 CFR Part 60 states that requests for consultation may be made in writing by representatives of state, Indian tribal, and local governments and may include, among other things, a review of NRC regulations, licensing procedures, potential schedules, and the type and scope of state activities in the future licensing review process as permitted by law. For further information regarding Subpart C of 10 CFR 60, please refer to this portion of the Code of Federal Regulations or to the Federal Register Notice dated February 25, 1981 (46 FR 13971).

A copy of the SCR for the Hanford site is available for public inspection at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of the SCR are available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, ATTN: Mr. Lee Olson, P.O. Box 550, Richland, WA 99352, Telephone (509) 376-7334 or FTS 444-7334.

Dated at Silver Spring, Maryland, this 12th day of November 1982.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Robert E. Browning,
Deputy Director, Division of Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 82-31679 Filed 11-17-82; 8:45 am]
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