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Mr. O. L. Olson
Director
U. S. Department of Energy
Basalt Waste Isolation Division
P. O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Olson:

On January 14, 1986, a teleconference between the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U. S. Department of Energy Richland Operation (DOE/RL) was held to discuss the proposed use of a bentonite/crushed basalt mixture as waste package packing in the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) program. During the course of the teleconference, DOE/RL staff agreed to provide several items to the NRC which would assist the staff in their review of the BWIP Waste Package Design. The information requests are itemized below for your convenience:

- o In lieu of a waste package design report, which has not been completed yet, DOE/RL agreed to provide NRC a diagram showing details of the current waste package conceptual design.
- o Since test data is not yet available, DOE/RL agreed to send NRC a list of tests that have been performed to date on bentonite/basalt packing material. Further, it was agreed that test data and test reports would be provided as they become available as required by the site specific procedural agreement.
- o Although, no testing strategy document is available at this time, DOE/RL indicated that test procedures are available for all tests performed to date on the packing material. DOE/RL agreed to provide NRC a copy of the test procedures for all tests performed to date.

It is our understanding that the DOE has addressed the NRC's waste package concerns in the Final Environmental Assessment (pp 6-115 through 6-118) and in a separate comment response package (pp C-132 through C-134). To expedite our review and understanding of the DOE's current Conceptual Waste Package Design, we would appreciate receiving copies of these specific pages together with the

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items bulleted above at your earliest convenience. Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Paul Hildenbrand of my staff at FTS 427-4685.

Sincerely,

"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY"

John Linehan, Section Leader
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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