

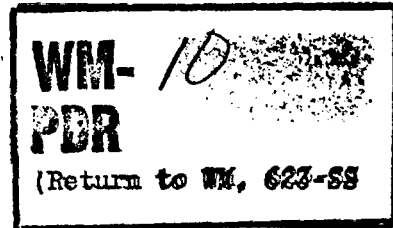
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8/10/82

NOTE TO: Nick Lewis

FROM: Hub Miller

Hub Miller



Dear Nick:

As promised in our phone conversation on July 24th, this informal note is to followup on a number of items from our recent meetings and conversations.

You asked for information about the organization and makeup of the NRC staff responsible for reviewing DOE's high-level waste site characterization activities at the Hanford site. This was in connection with our discussion about the possibility of conducting some briefings of state officials on the high-level waste program. The Division within the Commission responsible for conducting such reviews and ultimately licensing whichever site DOE decides to propose for waste disposal is the Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

I have provided a copy of our Program Control Document for High-Level Waste (Attachment 1) which describes our technical program and how it is managed (I have clipped those pages that describe our organizational structure and staffing effort). My branch, the High-Level Waste Technical Development Branch in the Division of Waste Management, has the lead responsibilities for site characterization reviews and for technical interactions with DOE on site characterization and licensing activities. Attachment 2 is a list describing the expertise and specialties of staff within the Division who are responsible for working on the high-level waste program.

As we discussed, I believe it would be possible for myself and several other members of my staff - such as Dr. Robert Wright, who is a geologist and our BWIP project manager - to conduct a briefing on HLW for state officials. You indicated that it might be advantageous to conduct such a briefing sometime this Fall. Since we will be conducting several technical meetings with DOE at Hanford this Fall, I am sure it will not be difficult to arrange to meet with you and other Washington State officials for a briefing.

Attachment 3 is a summary paper that my staff prepared to answer your questions about our site characterization report (SCR) review process.

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Along with this paper I am enclosing copies of our Standard Format and Content for SCRs (Reg. Guide 4.17), our SCR Review Plan, and our staff paper on siting and design issues at BWIP. In addition, I have provided a list of people in Washington State government and universities who I am aware have been involved in detailed technical aspects of high-level waste disposal (Attachment 4); most of these individuals have been involved through the DOE program at BWIP. I believe John Anttonen of DOE Richland may have a longer list of State people that have had involvement in technical aspects of the BWIP project and could provide this to you.

As I have stated in our conversations, we have a strong interest in maintaining a close working relationship with the State of Washington to identify and take steps to resolve issues at BWIP. To that end, we intend to be as flexible as we reasonably can to meet your needs for early and continuing consultations. Do not hesitate to call us regarding any concerns about our program.

cc: Wayne Kerr

bcc: J. Martin
R. Browning
J. Bunting
J. Surmeier
R. MacDougall
R. Wright
S. Coplan
R. Uleck & r/f
WMHT r/f ✓

DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS

HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

<u>General Discipline Area</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Technical Specialists</u>
Earth Scientists	15	Geologists Groundwater Hydrologists Geochemists Geophysicists Seismologists
Geotechnical and Mining Engineers	7	Geotechnical Engineers Civil Engineers Mining Engineers
Design Engineers	11	Nuclear Engineers Chemical Engineers Mechanical Engineers Materials Engineers
Health Physicists	2	Radiation Health Physicists
Environmental Scientists	3	Environmental Planner Ecologist Resource Manager
Social Scientists	4	Government Relations Analyst Economist Public Policy Analyst Regulatory Affairs Specialist
 TOTAL STAFF	 <u>42*</u>	

- * An additional 11 staff members in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research work in the high-level waste program, primarily managing generic research projects.

August 1982

INFORMATION ON NRC SITE CHARACTERIZATION REVIEW
FOR WASHINGTON STATE OFFICIALS

1. SCR Review Effort and Schedule

Because the DOE site characterization program will be moving ahead while NRC prepares comments on DOE's program plans, we will have to complete the analyses of these plans rapidly in order to provide early guidance on the scope and direction of the program. Accordingly, we plan to complete the final version of the NRC staff Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) eight months after receiving the SCR. This period will include publication of a draft SCA, a 90-day period for public comment, and the development of a final SCA addressing the issues raised in the comments received.

To give you a better sense of how this effort will be focused, we enclose the latest draft of our internal Review Plan for Site Characterization Reports. Among other things, the Plan sets forth the objectives of the review, how we will organize it, and when we intend to reach each major milestone toward the completion of the Site Characterization Analysis (SCA). Although the eight-month schedule for completing the final SCA has remained unchanged, you will note that the enclosed version of the Plan was completed last May, when we expected to receive an SCR for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) site at Hanford in mid-September. From our understanding of DOE's current plans, we now expect to receive this SCR in mid-November. Prior to that time, we will be meeting frequently with DOE project staff for detailed discussions of technical issues in order to prepare ourselves for early completion of a draft Site Characterization Analysis for public comment in the limited time available.

2. Identification of Technical Issues

Rather than attempting to outline all of the issues here, we enclose two additional documents we hope will help you become more familiar with the issues we are planning to address in the SCR review. First is a Regulatory Guide for the Standard Format and Content of Site

Characterization Reports. This Guide is designed to assist DOE's site characterization program planning by providing a means of organizing it to address three essential information needs: 1) To establish what is known about a site from exploration completed to date; 2) to describe the issues DOE has identified at a site in light of the results of investigations to date; and 3) to describe the detailed plans to resolve these issues. The guide has been dog-eared on pages we think may be of particular interest to you.

Second, with particular regard to BWIP, we enclose an NRC staff paper on Siting and Design Suitability Issues at the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP). This paper was based on a review of existing published information on the BWIP site as of last May, NRC technical reviews of the site, and consideration of the performance objectives and criteria of the proposed technical portion of the 10 CFR Part 60 licensing rule for high-level waste repositories.

3. State Technical and Policy Representatives

During our conversation in Olympia, you had mentioned needing a basis on which to determine the kinds and levels of technical and policy expertise you would want in order to represent the state during the SCR review. In general, your activities will be most appropriate in areas where Washington state has special concerns. We expect that the particular areas of interest will emerge in the course of our discussions as our preparations for the BWIP site characterization review proceeds. We hope these enclosures will give you a useful start for these discussions by providing the information you wanted concerning the review schedule and the kinds of technical issues we plan to address.

Enclosures:

1. Review Plan for Site Characterization Reports
2. Regulatory Guide, Standard Format and Content of Site Characterization Reports
3. Siting and Design Suitability Issues at Basalt Waste Isolation Project

Washington State Government

Donald Ford, Department of Natural Resources (geologist; member of the State Review Committee for DOE activities at BWIP)

Harry Tanaka, Department of Ecology (hydrologist; member of the State Hydrology Review Committee for BWIP)

Peter Grimstad, Department of Ecology (hydrologist; member of the State Hydrology Review Committee for BWIP)

Washington State University

Vincent Schultz (radioecologist; has advised the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on its generic programs in high-level waste)

James Kittrick, (geochemist; involved in Rockwell work on waste package)

University of Washington

Stuart Smith, Geophysics Department (geophysicist; involved in determining earthquake activity around Hanford)

Central Washington State University

Robert D. Bentley, Department of Geology (geologist; consulted with Rockwell on regional geology)