

SPELLMAN LTR

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NOV 15 1982

The Honorable John Spellman
Governor of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Spellman:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a Site Characterization Report (SCR) for a candidate high-level waste repository on the Hanford Reservation near Richland. Under our repository licensing rule, codified as Chapter 10, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 60), submittal of the SCR constitutes formal notification to NRC that DOE is considering a site as a candidate for which it may apply to NRC for authorization to construct a repository. NRC is notifying the public and certain State, local and tribal officials that the SCR has been received and NRC staff has begun to review it. A copy of the SCR is enclosed. We have submitted to the Federal Register a notice to the public that we have received the SCR, and a copy of this notice as submitted is also enclosed. We are awaiting its publication, and will be sending a copy as it appears in the Federal Register as soon as it is published.

In addition to the SCR itself, we have enclosed for your reference a copy of the procedural portion of the 10 CFR 60 repository licensing rule. You will note that while site characterization is an important step toward the selection of the first site for licensing, DOE's activities at Hanford will not necessarily result in either DOE's selection or NRC's licensing of that site. NRC's 10 CFR 60 procedural rule requires DOE to characterize at least three sites for possible licensing, and DOE has indicated that it also has ongoing studies of sites for possible characterization in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

The 10 CFR 60 procedures also contain provisions for participation by the potential host and adjacent States and other potentially affected States and Indian tribes in certain aspects of our licensing reviews. These procedures require the NRC to make its staff available to keep the State informed of our views on the progress of site characterization and assist the State in developing any proposal to participate. The purpose of this letter is to bring these matters to your attention.

On November 15, NRC responded to a request by the Washington State High-Level Nuclear Waste Management Task Force by providing a briefing on

*See Previous page for concurrences.

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NRC's high-level waste program activities. We understand that this Task Force, established by executive order, includes State legislative representatives appointed by the legislative leadership and was created to represent the State in coordinating with all Federal agencies on high-level radioactive waste activities.

We hope that the attached material on NRC's review process will be helpful. For your information, a similar letter is being sent to the presiding officers and minority leaders of both houses of the legislature, and the Chairman of the State High-Level Nuclear Waste Management Task Force. So that you know how we plan to work with the States adjacent to Washington, we have also included copies of our letters to Governor Atiyeh and Governor Evans. We look forward to a mutually productive relationship with the State of Washington.

Sincerely,

(Signed) John G. Davis
John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Site Characterization Report (SCR)
2. Notice of Receipt of SCR as submitted to
Federal Register
3. Procedural Portion of 10 CFR 60 Rule
4. Letter to Governor Atiyeh
5. Letter to Governor Evans

*See Previous page for concurrences.

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