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MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard Cunningham, Director
 Division of Fuel Cycle and Materials Safety

FROM: Robert E. Browning, Deputy Director
 Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: BASALT WASTE ISOLATION PROJECT (BWIP) SITE
 CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

Attached are two copies of the Department of Energy's Site Characterization Report for the BWIP. It was received on November 12, 1982 by the Director of NMSS.

The review and analysis of the Report is now under way in the Division of Waste Management. We expect to release a Draft Site Characterization Analysis for internal NRC review during the last week in January, 1983. At that time a copy of the DSCA, designated NUREG 0960, will be submitted to your Office for formal review and comment. To maintain our overall schedule for publication of the DSCA for public comment, it will be necessary to request that your comments on the draft be submitted within 14 days after delivery of the DSCA to you. Attached is the Federal Register Notice announcing receipt of the SCR and describing in more detail what the nature of the NRC review will be.

During preparation of the Draft Site Characterization Analysis we will be glad to consider any comments you may have to offer on any part of the SCR. We also provide the SCR for your general information and use. The SCR identifies potential licensing issues that will be faced if the Hanford site were to be selected. It addresses geotechnical questions (geology, hydrology and geochemistry), but also addresses issues related to repository design and operation (underground and surface facilities), and waste form and design. Therefore, we consider that some review by the Advanced Fuel and Spent Fuel Licensing Branch and the Transportation Certification Branch might be appropriate. Chapters of probable main interest to the Division of Fuel Cycle are Chapters 10 and 11, Repository Design and Waste Package respectively.

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If there are questions about the SCR, or the review thereof, please address them to Hubert Miller (427-4177) or Robert Wright (427-4672).



Robert E. Browning, Deputy Director
Division of Waste Management

cc: Z.D. McDonald
L.C. Rouse

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