



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Office of Repository Development
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A

OCT 25 2005

Ted C. Feigenbaum
President and General Manager
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DIRECTION TO PREPARE A REVISED CRITICAL DECISION-1 (CD-1) FOR
ACCEPTING AND HANDLING PRIMARILY CANISTERIZED FUEL AT THE YUCCA
MOUNTAIN (YM) REPOSITORY; CONTRACT NUMBER DE-AC28-01RW12101.

The purpose of this letter is to direct Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC (BSC), to develop a revised CD-1 package in accordance with DOE Order 413.3 for accepting and handling primarily canisterized fuel at the YM repository. The objective of this modification is to simplify the design, licensing, construction, and operation of the repository surface facilities. The program is revising the current program approach to include the use of Transport, Aging, and Disposal (TAD) canisters for the acceptance of spent nuclear fuel from the utilities. The use of TAD canisters will permit smaller, less complex surface facilities to operate in a clean, simplified, and safe manner, while minimizing radiological contamination issues. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will develop a commercial approach that will rely upon the private sector to design and license the TAD canister based transportation systems that meet DOE performance specifications.

BSC is directed to stop work associated with activities that support primarily bare fuel handling at the repository, other than that required for limited bare fuel and off-normal operations, and develop a CD-1 package that addresses the following:

1. Canisterized operations with a focus on simple, safe, and clean operations.
2. Canisters arriving at the repository will be disposable after being placed in a waste package.
3. Develop minimum bare fuel handling capability that would also be used for off-normal operations with remediation capabilities.
4. Utilize aspects of the current design to the extent practicable.
5. Maintain phased construction approach.
6. Include capability for both truck and rail deliveries.
7. Is consistent with Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Requirements Document acceptance rates of spent nuclear fuel.
8. Examine the feasibility of utilizing commercially available shielded canister transfer facility with addition of a waste package closure cell.

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9. Minimize impact on initial conditions for post closure safety case.
10. Location of surface facilities are not constrained to the north portal area but in the EIS analyzed space.
11. Evaluate and recommend other system optimizations to ensure best cost and schedule value.

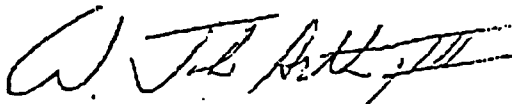
The revised CD-1 should use proven technology and commercial approaches where possible. The revised CD-1 should also include an analysis of the impacts to the License Application, Environmental Impact Statement, Total System Performance Assessment, Preclosure Safety Analysis and CD-1 documentation, and it should identify risks associated with each. In addition, BSC should provide recommendations on optimum methods and timing of handling waste in existing non-disposable dual purpose canisters.

BSC will be responsible for the development of the CD-1 documentation deliverables; specifically, the Conceptual Design Report, Risk Assessment, the Safety Hazards Analysis, and updated preliminary design phase budget and schedule and total project cost and schedule range. The DOE will maintain responsibility for the Project Execution Plan, the Acquisition Strategy, and the assessment of programmatic risks.

BSC is directed to complete a preliminary report due to DOE in writing within 30 days from the date of this letter with an overall goal of completing the revised CD-1 within 90 days. The preliminary report should address the planning assumptions, feasibility, and risks associated with the conceptual design alternatives, deliverables, and schedules to develop the CD-1 documentation. BSC is directed to provide weekly updates to DOE management through the completion of this effort in accordance with DOE Order 413.3 requirements.

If it is determined by the contractor that this direction results in changes to the terms of the contract, you are directed to notify the Contracting Officer immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact me at (702) 794-1300.



W. John Arthur, III
Deputy Director

OPM&E:VFI-0030

Ted C. Feigenbaum

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