



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 4, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: John H. Austin, Chief  
Performance Assessment  
and Hydrology Branch, DWM

Michael J. Bell, Chief  
Engineering and Geosciences  
Branch, DWM

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Chief *Joseph J. Holonich*  
High-Level Waste and Uranium  
Recovery Projects Branch, DWM

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LICENSE APPLICATION  
ANNOTATED OUTLINE

As you are aware, one of the pre-licensing review strategies in the Overall Review Strategy (ORS) is for the staff to review and comment on the License Application Annotated Outline (AO). The development of the AO is to be an iterative process carried out by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with revisions being developed and provided to NRC on an annual basis. On March 31, 1994, DOE submitted the AO, Revision 0 for NRC review. Therefore, the NRC staff needs to begin its review of this document.

Review Scope

Considering the current staffing, the AO review should concentrate on the following FY95 vertical slice areas:

1. Section 3.2.1.9 - Hazards from Igneous Activity at Yucca Mountain
2. Section 3.2.3.4 - Evolution of Groundwater Chemistry near and within the EBS
3. Section 4.3 - Design, Control and Quality Assurance at Exploratory Studies Facility

Should other staff be available, the AO review should be expanded into other significant areas in your branch as appropriate. The main review objective of the AO is to provide detailed comments to DOE in those areas listed above. A secondary review objective is to review as much of the AO as possible, and provide detailed comments. Staff should use the License Application Review Plan as much as possible to guide it in its review. Although many sections of the LARP remain incomplete, staff can still use the review strategies to help better focus the reviews. The staff can also use draft review plan sections where they are available for use. Finally, the staff should make use of any other regulatory guidance available. This could include Technical Positions, regulatory guides, or Staff Positions.

070067

9504070229 950331  
PDR ADDCK 05000374  
PDR

*NH16 1/1  
102.2  
WM-11*

It is our understanding that DOE plans to implement NRC's suggestion of consolidating information into the AO, and reduce the number of submittals to NRC. However, it is evident from the Technical Program Review and a quick overview of this AO, that DOE will not be implementing this option until next year. Therefore, as with the previous version, the AO appears to be limited with regard to detailed technical information and heavy in Information Needs Forms.

Considering the concerns raised by the staff from the DOE Technical Program Review, it is in NRC's best interest to provide detailed, specific, comments documenting our concerns with the AO as a licensing document. Therefore, the staff should provide as many detailed comments it believes are necessary to document its concern with the insufficiency of the technical information provided in the AO. In addition, if based on a review of the information needs, the staff can document detailed technical concerns, such as an improper interpretation of the regulation or an incorrect design approach, it should also do that.

### Review Procedures

AO review procedures were originally developed in June of 1993. In the last month, these procedures have been updated. As stated in the revised procedures, the primary purpose of the AO review should be to provide timely guidance to DOE regarding the completeness and adequacy of its LA through an preliminary evaluation of:

1. DOE's interpretation of the requirements in 10 CFR Part 60 and any other applicable regulations, and
2. the acceptability of the available technical and administrative information provided by DOE to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 60 and any other applicable regulatory requirements.

A copy of the revised procedures is provided for your review and comment in Enclosure 1. However, until such time as the new AO procedures are approved the June 1993 AO procedures should govern the review (see Enclosure 2).

### Review Schedule

The review of the AO should be complete and the transmitted to DOE by August 31, 1995. Therefore, the staff review should be complete no later than July 31, 1995. This schedule will allow for the editing of the document, management briefings, preparation of the concurrence package, concurrence, and other such project management duties.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Sandra Wastler, of my staff, at 415-6724.

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DWM\HLUR\SLW\START-AO.JJH

OFC	HLUR		HLUR	E	HLUR			
NAME	SWastler		JThoma	JT	JHolonich			
DATE	4/9/95		4/14/95		4/14/95			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION FOR MEMORANDUM TO J. AUSTIN AND M. BELL DATED 4/4/95.

DISTRIBUTION w/Encl.:

~~Central File~~

NMSS r/f

DWM r/f

HLUR r/f

PUBLIC

LSS

ACNW

CNWRA

OSR

w/o Encl.:

JSurmeier

MFederline