

JAN 12 1990

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph O. Bunting, Chief
Engineering Branch, HLWM

FROM: Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch, HLWM

SUBJECT: SCOPE FOR TECHNICAL POSITION ON REPOSITORY DESIGN-THERMAL
LOADS

We have reviewed the revised draft of the Scope for Technical Position on Repository Design-Thermal Loads (dated 22 Dec 1989). We have no objection to the technical portions of the Scope.

There are two points that are unclear to us that you may wish to consider before proceeding to develop a draft position. The justification for writing the position appears to be principally that it would be a good basis on which to develop a License Application Review Plan, would support the Format and Content Guide and would provide guidance in an area where NRC has no existing guidance. There are alternative ways to support the LARP and FCG work that are less labor intensive, as you are well aware. Thus, a compelling reason for proceeding would be that guidance to DOE is needed. The justification section did not indicate why DOE is in need of this guidance. It might be important for later justification of the TP to have such indications of need recorded in the scope or in the position itself.

Also, it is unclear whether the position is intended to address only the "...uncertainties associated with the prediction of the thermal loading and thermomechanical response..."(p.4) or to provide DOE with "...an approach acceptable to the NRC staff for predicting the thermal loading and thermomechanical response..."(p.5), or both. While the Scope needn't be revised to clear this up, a draft position should of course do so.

RS

Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch, HLWM

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