

LETTER FOR STEIN

- 1 -

DEC 05 1988

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
 Office of Systems Integration and Regulations
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 U. S. Department of Energy RW-24
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

This letter is in response to your October 18, 1988 letter requesting my staff to begin reviewing two Waste Acceptance Process (WAP) documents: the Draft Waste Acceptance Preliminary Specifications (WAPS) for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF); and DWPF's Waste Form Compliance Plan (WCP). In addition to discussing these reviews, I would like to reiterate some key observations made by the NRC staff in the most recent technical exchange meeting held September 29, 1988, between DOE and NRC on the WAP and transmitted to you by letters R. Browning to R. Stein dated October 14, 1988.

As we discussed in the September 29th meeting, we had had no previous indication that you would be requesting these reviews on the schedules laid out in that meeting. Consequently, we have not budgeted resources for the reviews you requested. Also your request for reviews is inconsistent with the agreements reached in July 1988 concerning the number of quality assurance reviews and when they would be required.

Concerning the review of the WAPS and WCP, we do not plan to provide comments on these two documents until OCRWM provides us an integrated schedule of all WAP-related activities, as agreed to in the September 29, 1988 technical exchange between NRC and DOE. This schedule is essential to planning for and scheduling necessary WAP reviews, especially in light of our heavy schedule of near-term site characterization and design control process review activities. When we review the OCRWM integrated schedule, we will provide feedback within one month on the proposed schedule as stated in our October 14, 1988 letter. This schedule should include information on how WAP activities fit into the overall repository development process, with proposed milestones for the NRC review of WAP documents for West Valley and Savannah River and WAP-related quality assurance documents and audits.

Several other commitments made by your staff at the September 29, 1988 technical exchange meeting were that: OCRWM would provide by November 30, 1988 the schedule and method of documentation to describe the DWPF Process Control Program, which we have not received; a statement and supporting documentation as to how, in developing the performance allocation, OCRWM considered anticipated performance characteristics of the DWPF glass in the repository environment, which we have not received; and a list of open items both from NRC and DOE on the WAP. We have exchanged one set of lists but your staff said it was preparing another list which would supersede the first list.

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- 2 -

We understand that the next WAP technical exchange meeting is scheduled for January 1989. We would like this meeting to enable NRC and DOE to reach agreement on a common list of open items and the approach and schedule for resolution of these open items. In order to meet these objectives, and especially to have a sound basis for scheduling efforts to resolve the open items, the NRC staff will need the revised DOE list and the OCRWM integrated schedule for all WAP-related activities before this meeting occurs.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Wayne Walker of my staff on FTS 492-0447.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Acting Director
Repository Licensing Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

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