



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

October 4, 1991

Mr. B. Joe Youngblood
Director, Division of High Level
Waste Management (4H3)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on Structural Geology & Geoengineering will hold a day-and-a-half meeting in Seattle, Washington, on November 12-13, 1991. Sessions will run from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on November 12, and from 8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. on November 13, followed by a half-day tour of The Robbins Company, the world's largest manufacturer of tunnel-boring machines.

On Tuesday, November 12, panel members will hear presentations from representatives of the Department of Energy and Sandia National Laboratories, who will review the status of the proposed repository sealing program. Members will hear presentations on the program's history, regulatory requirements, design philosophy, sealing concepts, and the rationale for these concepts. Following discussions will focus on the technical requirements of sealing and the development of a numerical model of the permeability of the zone surrounding the openings of the proposed repository. The latter part of the day will be devoted to a discussion of plans for future studies. This discussion will carry over to Wednesday, November 13, and will conclude with a discussion of the materials selection process, seal degradation, and proposed field test efforts.

On the afternoon of November 13, Board members and interested meeting participants will have the opportunity to tour The Robbins Company, which is located approximately 15 minutes from the hotel. Transportation from the hotel will depart at 12:30 P.M.

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Telephone: 703-235-4473 Fax: 703-235-4495

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A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 18118 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington 98188; (206) 244-6666 with a rate of \$69. *Please note that reservations must be made by November 1, 1991, and those calling must indicate they are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's meeting to be included in the room block and receive the preferred rate.*

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Helen Einersen or Linda Hiatt, of my staff.

Sincerely,



William D. Barnard
Executive Director

cc:
John J. Linehan