

AUG 06 1991

Dr. Don U. Deere, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
1100 Wilson Blvd., Suite 910  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Dr. Deere:

In your letter of July 11, 1991, you mentioned the joint plan of the Board and the SKN to hold an informal meeting of representatives from various nations on the role of the Engineered Barrier System (EBS) in their respective programs on high-level waste and invited NRC participation in the meeting. NRC would be pleased to be represented at this proposed meeting. In keeping with your suggestion for active participation from attendants from each country, we anticipate that our Dr. Charles G. Interrante will make a presentation and a representative of our contractor, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, will also attend.

At present we contemplate that an appropriate discussion would include a summary of our regulatory requirements related to waste package containment and the technical considerations that must be dealt with to meet these requirements. Broadly, a satisfactory demonstration of containment will rest upon arguments that demonstrate adequate understanding of (1) the environment, (2) the materials of construction, (3) the processes used in fabrication of components and canisters, and (4) the processes by which fabricated components/canisters are altered over time. An understanding of the uncertainties associated with these arguments will be needed to make predictions of canister failure modes and frequencies after various periods of repository service.

We look forward to the opportunity to present NRC regulatory perspectives and to hear the current views of other nations on this important topic.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Deputy Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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