



ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION GROUP

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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→ DCS

January 23, 1990

Mr. John Linehan
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Room 4D23
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

Enclosed please find a copy of the EEG report, "Preoperational Surveillance of the WIPP Project by EEG, 1985-1988," EEG-43, by Jim W. Kenney, John C. Rodgers, Jenny B. Chapman and Kevin J. Shenk, January 1990. The report discusses the EEG preoperational monitoring program which documents existing concentrations of selected radionuclides in the area of WIPP.

The purpose of this program is to obtain measurements of background radioactivity in the environs of WIPP prior to beginning operations with radioactive waste in order to obtain a frame of reference for any changes associated with operations. The results indicate that EEG data are generally consistent with similar data obtained by DOE during the preoperational phase of WIPP. Analyses of air particulates frequently indicated a detectable presence of naturally occurring Ra-226, Ra-228, Th-228, Th-230, and Th-232. Radionuclide data from the analyses of water samples were consistent with other published findings for water from this area.

Sincerely,


Robert H. Neill
Director

Enclosure *see in jacket*

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