

Minutes from the May 30, 1991
Interactions Scheduling Meeting

On May 30, 1991, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) met at NRC headquarters with representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) for an interactions scheduling meeting. No representatives from the State of Nevada or the affected units of local governments attended, although they were notified prior to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and schedule interactions in the area of high-level waste management between the NRC staff and DOE from June through November 1991. A list of attendees is found in Attachment 1.

At the meeting, the NRC staff and DOE agreed to schedule seven interactions between June and November 1991. The list of confirmed interaction topics, including the date, location, objective, and scope is provided in Attachment 2. In addition, four topics were identified as potential future interactions that will be scheduled during 1992 (see Attachment 3). Both the NRC staff and DOE agreed that there should be early discussions to establish the details of the agendas for all scheduled interactions. This entails providing mutual access to the documents and letters containing key issues on the interaction topics.

DOE stated that the NRC staff and other participants would be welcome to attend the first and second design reviews for the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF). The first design review will be held on June 17th. The second is to be scheduled for late August. The first design review will cover design work on the north portal and north ramp of the ESF. The second will cover the revised Title I Design. DOE further stated its position that the NRC staff would be observers and were not to interrupt the review process. The NRC staff responded that its attendance at these reviews would have to be consistent with its pre-licence consultation role. This role requires that NRC staff representatives must make comments in areas where problems are perceived. DOE responded that it would provide a technical point of contact to whom the NRC staff could address any concerns or comments posed during the design review. Finally, DOE reported that it was issuing a letter to NRC with the invitation to observe the reviews.

Besides the design reviews, DOE proposed that a technical exchange on the ESF Title I Design and ESF Design Control Process be held jointly in September 1991. The NRC staff expressed concern that DOE's proposal to review the design control process simultaneously with the ESF Title I Design Summary Report in September would not provide DOE with an opportunity to receive feedback from the NRC staff on the design control process before design work begins. The NRC staff believes that delaying review of the design control process will not allow DOE adequate time to take corrective action, if any, in areas identified by the NRC staff. This could adversely affect the Title I Design.

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In response to NRC's concern, DOE stated that September would be the appropriate time for review of both the ESF Title I Design and ESF Design Control Process because portions of the design control process were still incomplete (eg. developing the flow-down of 10 CFR Part 60 requirements into specific design criteria). DOE further stated that because of this, any earlier meetings of the design control process would not be as productive. Therefore, September would be the earliest time to discuss the design control process. The NRC staff reiterated its concern that DOE was taking a risk by not having the technical interaction for the design control process earlier. DOE acknowledged this and committed to evaluate whether it would be able to support an earlier, separate technical interaction meeting for the design review process.

Another topic discussed was the possibility of holding informal quarterly licensing and management meetings between the NRC staff, DOE, and the program participants. Both the NRC staff and DOE felt that this would be a constructive way of exchanging information on pending issues, current work progress, and other topics concerning the Yucca Mountain Project. However, DOE expressed a concern that these meetings may turn into another form of technical exchange, thus taxing DOE's technical staff even further. Also, DOE was concerned that because these meetings would be open to the public, they might have to become more formal to preclude misinterpretation of information presented. DOE suggested that these informal quarterly management meetings might replace some of the current licensing and management meetings, thus minimizing duplication of effort. The NRC staff agreed with this recommendation. DOE said that it would have to evaluate how to implement these quarterly management meetings before formally committing to them. Additionally, DOE indicated that it would consider arranging preparation of meetings between DOE and NRC management and appropriate senior DOE technical staff.

A topic also considered was the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) roundtable discussion. The NRC staff stated that it planned to send five individuals to the discussion. DOE stated that this would be a problem because seating was severely limited at the WIPP facility and the meeting is open to other regulatory/oversite authorities and interested state/local government officials. The NRC staff stated that if DOE could not assure seating for five NRC staff participants then consideration should be given to changing the location of the meeting to a place that can accommodate all attendees. DOE said that it would determine if it could reduce the number of its current attendees in order to accommodate the NRC request.

During the discussion of actual scheduling, DOE indicated that it was implementing the constructive NRC suggestion that DOE develop an annotated outline (AO) which demonstrates its interpretation of the guidance given in the Format Content and Regulatory Guide. DOE will be using this AO as

a means of identification and development of issues requiring resolution. DOE wants to focus future interactions more closely on resolution of issues to further the pre-licensing process objective of preparation of an acceptable license application.

 9/3/91

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 9/3/91

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Attendance List

May 30, 1991 Interaction Scheduling

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Joe Holonich	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-3591
John Linehan	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-3406
Tom Bjerstedt	DOE/YMPO	(702) 794-7590
David Dobson	DOE/YMP	(702) 794-7940
John P. Roberts	DOE/OSC	(202) 586-9896
Stephan Brocoum	DOE/OGD/AUB	(202) 586-4262
Linda Desell	DOE/OSC	(202) 586-1462
Bob Carlson	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-0435
King Stablein	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-0446
Ron Ballard	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-3462
David Brooks	NRC/HLWM	(301) 492-3457
Linda Embrey	TRW/(WHO)	(703) 934-2445
Mike Lugo	SAIC	(702) 794-7830
Mike Glora	SAIC	(702) 794-7609
Joe Bader	M&O, Fluor Daniel	(202) 488-2304

List of Scheduled Interactions for 1991

Topic: Data Management

Objective: To discuss the inventory of site data and NRC computer access to the Site Engineering Properties Data Base.

Scope: This technical exchange will focus on progress that has been made on implementing the proposed organization of the data bases and development of computer access to these data bases by all DOE participants and the NRC staff. The discussion would also include an update of the inventory of data in all DOE data bases and how much of that data has been transferred to the Site Engineering Properties Data Base. Some hands-on demonstrations will be provided. Discussion of "data qualification" and its role in the site characterization program will also be discussed by DOE.

Date: July 30, 1991

Topic: Waste Form: Glass

Objective: To discuss the technical and regulatory issues related to the expected performance of vitrified high-level waste in the Yucca Mountain environment.

Scope: Discussion should include planned vitrification activities at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and will address DOE's assessment of international glass-making experience. This exchange should include a tour of the DWPF.

Date: August 7 and 8, 1991 or August 21 and 22, 1991.
(DOE will attempt to schedule)

Topic: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Round-Table Discussion

Objective: To provide the NRC staff with an opportunity to send individuals to the dialogue between representatives of the WIPP performance assessment program and the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management performance assessment program.

Scope: Discussions will focus on lessons learned from the performance assessment program at WIPP and how regulatory issues are being addressed.

Date: August 28, 1991

Topic: Procedural Agreement Meeting

Objective: To discuss the inconsistencies identified with the procedural agreements and proposed revisions.

Scope: Discussion at this meeting should center around the inconsistencies with the procedural agreements identified at the October 29, 1990 Licensing and Management Meeting, and proposed revisions to the agreements or dispositions to address the items. Additionally, this meeting should focus on the approach to issue-resolution tracking. Participation should be at the first-line supervisor level.

Date: September 12, 1991.

Topic: Status of the Explanatory Studies Facilities (ESF) Design and Design Control for ESF Title II Design

Purpose: To present the status and progress of ESF design activities. Also, to present DOE's process for initiating and conducting ESF Title II design and discuss the phased approach for SCA concerns.

Scope: Title I Design Summary Report; discussion of the status of SCA Objections 1 and 2; plans for Title II design and schedule; ESF design process and controls applicable thereto; relationship of CHRBA and ESFAS to ESF design; status of the design effort and schedule with participant responsibilities; consideration of regulatory requirements; design data management; and testing considerations.

Date: September 16 & 17, 1991
(Tentative)

Topic: Scenario Development and Screening and Construction of a Complementary Cumulative Distribution Function (CCDF)

Objective: To discuss the technical and regulatory issues related to the methods planned for developing and screening scenarios, and the construction of a CCDF.

Scope: This technical exchange will address: the current operational definition of scenarios; how scenarios are to be generated from elemental events and processes; what initial set of scenarios of elemental events should be considered; appropriate methods for screening scenarios; and how much should be implemented and documented. Also see the NRC's Site Characterization Analysis concern nos. 1, 95, 100, and 103. This technical exchange will also address the use of a definition of scenarios consistent with the logic used to construct a CCDF, including human intrusion scenarios in the CCDF, and the use of expected partial performance measures to guide site characterization. Also see the comment nos. 93, 95, 98, and 99.

Date: October 29 and 30, 1991

Topic: Regulatory Strategy

Purpose: DOE and NRC to exchange information with the goal of establishing methods to document closure of issues.

Scope: Compare issues ripe for closure and appropriate methods to achieve and document closure of technical and/or regulatory issues. One goal would be to increase the focus of future DOE/NRC meetings and exchanges on issue resolution.

Date: November 19, 1991
(Tentative)

List of Proposed Interactions for 1992

TOPICS: Waste Form - Spent Nuclear Fuel
 Air and Vapor Movement due to Thermal Gradients
 Saturated Zone Modeling
 Natural Resources Assessment