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MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph O. Bunting, Chief
Licensing Process and Integration Branch
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Ann W. Savolainen, Chief
Policy and Publications Management Branch
Division of Technical Information and Document Control
Office of Administration

WM-10
PDR
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

SUBJECT: HLW PRELICENSING SITE CHARACTERIZATION REPORTS

Enclosed is a draft copy of the Federal Register notice DOE intends to issue to give the availability of the first Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project. The availability of the reports has been cleared by the DOE legal staff and management, and they do intend to give it free to requesters.

I double checked with my contact Mark Frei (353-4004) who says that they did consider all the alternatives we discussed and rejected them in favor of the free document.

I believe this completes the assignment I accepted at your October 13 meeting.

Ann W. Savolainen
Ann W. Savolainen, Chief
Policy and Publications Management
Branch
Division of Technical Information and
Document Control
Office of Administration

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure: P. G. Norry, ADM
W. J. Besaw, TIDC
R. S. Scott, TIDC
W. M. Dorie, ADM

8303290050 821103
PDR WASTE
WM-10 PDR

(F) (H)
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability of the Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy has prepared and submitted the Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in accordance with 10 CFR 60, "Disposal of High Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories: Licensing Procedures" [46 FR 13971]. The Basalt Waste Isolation Project is one of three National Waste Terminal Storage projects investigating sites for their suitability to locate a mined geologic repository for the permanent disposal of commercial high-level nuclear wastes. This project has been studying the basalts underlying the Hanford Site in the State of Washington since 1976, culminating in the identification of a candidate repository site in 1982.

The Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project documents technical questions that have been identified at the site and the plans to resolve them through further site studies. The document also describes the basalt site to be characterized, provides information on the basalt site screening and selection process, and describes the repository design, waste package research and development, and quality assurance efforts in the Project. Finally, the document summarizes the alternative media and sites under investigation in the National Waste Terminal Storage Program.

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082-1

AVAILABILITY: Copies of the Site Characterization Report are available from: U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, Richland, Washington, 99352. Telephone: 509-376-7334.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. O. Lee Olson, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, Richland, Washington, 99352. Telephone: 509-376-7334.

For the United States Department of Energy:

(Date)

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy

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082-2