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MEMORANDUM TO: All Office Directors
Director OGC, OPE

FROM: John G. Davis, Director, NMSS

SUBJECT: SITE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT FOR THE HANFORD, WA SITE

Pursuant to 10 CFR 60.11, the Department of Energy submitted on November 12, a site characterization report for the Hanford, WA Reservation. This describes the site characterization program proposed to qualify Hanford as a candidate site for a high-level radioactive waste repository. Current DOE plans call for submission of SCR's for two other sites in mid 1983 -- the Nevada Test site and an undetermined site in a salt formation.

This Office is commencing a review of the DOE document which will result in a Draft Site Characterization Analysis that is expected to be issued for public comment about mid-March, 1983. Following a ninety-day public comment period, a Final Site Characterization Analysis, with a Director's Opinion, is expected to be published and sent to DOE by September 1983.

It should be noted that all the above actions represent pre-licensing activities. If Hanford is advanced to the NRC for licensing consideration, this will take the form of a Construction Authorization Application. Such an application would be in the 1987-1988 time-frame, according to DOE's present schedule.

The Hanford Site Characterization Report consists of three loose-leaf binders with about 2200 pages. Copies have been placed in the H Street Public Document Room and the Phillips Library.

The staff person responsible for coordinating and preparing the Site Characterization Report Review and Analysis is Dr. Robert J. Wright, telephone 427-4674.

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(Signed) John G. Davis

John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

* See previous concurrence

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