



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 17, 1982

WM Record File	wm-10
WM Dir.	✓
WM Dep. Dir.	
WMPI	
WMHT	HSM
WMUR	
WMHL	MSK
Others	

NOTE FOR JOHN MARTIN, NMSS

Enclosed is a draft public announcement of receipt of the DOE's SER for the Hanford Reservation. Have your folk review it and get comments back to me asap. If the letter to Governor Spellman and others were signed out on November 15, we should issue the announcement in the next couple of days.

ki

Frank Ingram
Assistant to the Director
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

WM Record File	WM Project
101	WM-10
	Docket No.
	PDR ✓
	LPDR ✓
Distribution:	
(Return to WM, 623-SS)	

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PDR WASTE PDR
WM-10

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NRC STAFF RECEIVES REPORT ON POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY SITE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has initiated a review of a Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington, as a possible site for a repository for high-level radioactive wastes.

The staff has advised Governor John Spellman and other Washington state, local and tribal officials that receipt of the SCR constitutes the Department of Energy's official notice to the NRC that the Hanford site is being considered as a candidate site for which it may apply to the NRC for authorization to construct a repository. The Governors of Oregon and Idaho also have been informed.

Under the NRC's regulations, the Department of Energy-- before applying to the NRC for authorization to build a repository--is required to characterize at least three sites representing two geologic media. In this connection, the Department has indicated that it has ongoing studies of sites in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Utah for possible characterization.

The NRC staff review of a DOE Site Characterization Report is not a licensing action but part of an ongoing pre-application process. This process is designed to assist the Department in gathering information it may need in deciding whether to seek NRC authorization to build a repository at a particular site. The process also is designed to identify, at an early stage and based on available information, specific potential problems which might impact a particular site.

The Hanford Reservation SCR includes: (1) a description of the site; (2) the criteria used to arrive at the candidate site; (3) the method by which the site was selected for characterization; (4) identification and location of alternative media and sites at which the DOE intends to conduct site characterization; (5) a description of the decision process by which the site was selected; (6) a description of the site characterization program including a conceptual design of the facility and plans for excavation and testing; (7) a description of the quality assurance program to be applied to data collection; and (8) a description of issues related to site selection, alternative candidate areas or sites, and design of the geologic repository which the Department wishes the NRC to address.

As required by NRC regulations, the staff, over the next few months, will prepare a Draft Site Characterization Analysis (Draft SCA) of the information contained in the SCR. The draft then will be made available for public comment for a period of at least 90 days. A Final SCA then will be prepared containing: (1) an opinion that the NRC staff has no objection to the DOE's site characterization program; or (2) specific objections to the Department's proceeding with characterization of the specific site. The Final SCA also may contain recommendations to the DOE regarding its site characterization work.

A copy of the Site Characterization Report for the Hanford site has been placed in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

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BOB SPOUNING / JOE B.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

[Handwritten signature]

November 17, 1982

WM Record File	(101) WM-18
WM Dir.	
WM Rep. Dir.	
WMPI	
WMHT	1/5/82
WMUR	
MAIL	
WMANL	MSS
Others	

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[Handwritten initials]

Frank Ingram
Assistant to the Director
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

I think this should be revised to look like the FR notice taking out P or P.2 and adding more re: need for public to get SCR for details of DOE program etc.

*SCR 2 W
DOE's work*

Hus 11/18

NRC STAFF RECEIVES REPORT ON POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL
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The staff has advised Governor John Spellman and other Washington state, local and tribal officials that receipt of the SCR constitutes the Department of Energy's official notice to the NRC that the Hanford site is being considered as a candidate site for which it may apply to the NRC for authorization to construct a repository. The Governors of Oregon and Idaho also have been informed.

Under the NRC's regulations, the Department of Energy-- before applying to the NRC for authorization to build a repository--is required to characterize at least three sites representing two geologic media. In this connection, the Department has indicated that it has ongoing studies of sites in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Utah for possible characterization.

The NRC staff review of a DOE Site Characterization Report is not a licensing action but part of an ongoing pre-application process. This process is designed to assist the Department in gathering information it may need in deciding whether to seek NRC authorization to build a repository at a particular site. The process also is designed to identify, at an early stage and based on available information, specific potential problems which might impact a particular site.

~~The Hanford Reservation SCR includes: (1) a description of the site; (2) the criteria used to arrive at the candidate site; (3) the method by which the site was selected for characterization; (4) identification and location of alternative media and sites at which the DOE intends to conduct site characterization; (5) a description of the decision process by which the site was selected; (6) a description of the site characterization program including a conceptual design of the facility and plans for excavation and testing; (7) a description of the quality assurance program to be applied to data collection; and (8) a description of issues related to site selection, alternative candidate areas or sites, and design of the geologic repository which the Department wishes the NRC to address.~~

As required by NRC regulations, the staff, over the next few months, will prepare a Draft Site Characterization Analysis (Draft SCA) of the information contained in the SCR. The draft then will be made available for public comment for a period of at least 90 days. A Final SCA then will be prepared containing: (1) an opinion that the NRC staff has no objection to the DOE's site characterization program; or (2) specific objections to the Department's proceeding with characterization of the specific site. The Final SCA also may contain recommendations to the DOE regarding its site characterization work.

A copy of the Site Characterization Report for the Hanford site has been placed in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

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*CHM chgr
Submitted too
late*

PRESS RELEASE

82/11/19

- 2 -

Hanford site is being considered as a candidate site for which it may apply to NRC for authorization to construct a repository. The Governors of Oregon and Idaho have also been notified.

of adjacent States

Under the NRC's regulations, the DOE--before applying to the NRC for authorization to build a repository--is required to characterize at least three sites representing two geologic media. In this connection, the Department has indicated that it has ongoing studies of sites in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Utah. DOE has not notified NRC of any final decision as to which of the sites it will characterize.

As required by NRC regulations, the staff will, over the next several months, prepare a Draft Site Characterization Analysis (Draft SCA) of the information provided in the SCR. A period not less than 90 days will be allowed for public comments on the Draft SCA. A Final SCA will then be prepared issuing an opinion that the Director has either no objection to DOE's site characterization program, if such an opinion is appropriate, or specific objections to DOE's proceeding with characterization of the named site. In addition, the staff may make specific recommendations to DOE on matters relating to its site characterization activities. This SCA will be a critique of the plans of the DOE contained in the SCR. Readers of the SCA interested in detailed

Nancy Still *OK, look at page 2*

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date *11/19/62*

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)		Initials	Date
1.	File WM-10 (101)		<i>11/22</i>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

Attached is the press release regarding the BWIP SCR as rewritten and communicated on the 5520 to Frank Ingram, OPA. This document has the concurrence of JSurmeier and REBrowning.

cc: JBMartin
 REBrowning
 JOBunting
 DRMattson
 JSurmeier
 JMiller
 MJBell
 RWright

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) Nancy Still, WMPI	Room No.—Bldg.
	Phone No.

5041-102

★ GPO : 1961 O - 341-529 (101)

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
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 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206