



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MAR 25 1988

Mr. Robert Browning, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

As proposed in your letter of February 12, 1988, we have arranged with your staff to hold a technical meeting from April 11 through April 14, 1988, as part of the consultations on the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan (CD-SCP) for the Yucca Mountain site. The meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will notify you of the specific location in Las Vegas in the near future.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider alternative conceptual models of the ground-water system at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, including geologic, tectonic, hydrologic, and climatological influences.

We have invited the State of Nevada and its contractors and other parties who commented on, or expressed an interest in, the conceptual model of the Yucca Mountain ground-water system as presented in the Environmental Assessment or in the CD-SCP to participate in the meeting by presenting an alternate conceptual model.

The relevant chapters of the CD-SCP and the report, "Conceptual Considerations of the Death Valley Groundwater System with Special Emphasis on the Adequacy of This System to Accommodate the High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository" by Jerry Szymanski, which have previously been provided to you, provide the background materials for this meeting. A preliminary agenda is enclosed.



Celebrating the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial — 1787-1987

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Please contact Mr. Edward Regnier of my staff (586-4959) if you have any questions concerning this meeting.

Sincerely,



Ralph Stein, Acting Director
Siting, Licensing & Quality
Assurance Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Robert Loux, Jr.
State of Nevada

NRC-DOE TECHNICAL MEETING

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTUAL MODELS OF THE GROUND-WATER SYSTEM

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
(3-23-88 version)

Meeting purpose is to consider different conceptual models of the ground-water system, including geologic, tectonic, hydrologic, geochemical, and climatologic influences in the Yucca Mountain region. This is to promote open discussion about similarities, differences, and compatibilities of the various conceptual models. Using such information, DOE will be able to ensure that the SCP contains plans for data collection sufficient to evaluate alternative models. Each presentation should include the following six items:

- o Assumptions supporting the model
- o Physical processes and disruptive events incorporated in the model
- o Boundary conditions
- o Available data supporting the model
- o Additional data needed to refine the model and testing proposed to gather the additional data (surface-based/ESF)
- o Analyses to be performed to evaluate the data and the conceptual model

Day 1

9:00 - 9:30 DOE Introductory Remarks

Purpose and Scope
Background

R. Stein, DOE/HQ
C. Gertz, DOE/NV

9:30 - 11:00 NRC Introductory Remarks and
Summary of SCP-CD Comments
Relevant to Conceptual Models

11:00 - 11:30 DOE Response

11:30 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 DOE Conceptual Model

1:00 - 1:10 Introduction

M. Blanchard, DOE/NV

1:10 - 2:45 The Hydrologic Setting
o include the 6 items
identified above

W. Wilson, USGS

2:45 - 3:00 Break

- 3:00 - 3:45 Translation to numerical models Sinnock, SNL
for performance assessment
o include the 6 items identified above
- 3:45 - 5:00 Clarifying questions and commentary
from participants

Day 2

Presentations of other conceptual models:
(Presenters to be arranged)

- 1 to 3 hrs Description of Alternative Conceptual Model
for each presenter o Include the 6 items identified above
- 15 to 30 min. Clarifying Questions from Participants on
Description of Conceptual Model

Day 3

- 8:00 - 10:30 Moderator-led Open discussion of Similarities and
Differences Among the Various Conceptual Models
- o Extent to which the alternative conceptual
models incorporate the same physical processes
and disruptive events and where they differ
 - o Extent to which the alternative conceptual
models employ the same underlying assumptions
and where they differ
 - o Extent to which the alternative conceptual
models have similar initial fixed and variable
boundary conditions and where they differ
 - o Extent to which the alternative conceptual
models have similar information needs and where
they differ
 - o Implication of models on ground water travel
time and radionuclide transport
- 10:30 - 11:00 Caucus/Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 View of each presenter as presented by a
Spokesperson from each organization
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 3:00 Moderator-led Open Discussion on Sufficiency of
Data Collection Plans in SCP-CD
(DOE to provide brief summary/overview of
related topics from SCP-CD)
- o Extent to which the surface-based testing
information needs are similar and where they
differ
 - o Extent to which the ESF testing information
needs are similar and where they differ

3:00 - 3:30 Break
3:30 - 5:30 Discussion on Sufficiency of Data (continued)
5:00 - 5:30 Caucus for Day 4 Wrap-up Statements

Day 4

8:00 - 9:00 DOE Statement: Discussion Relevant to Szymanski's draft report; Wrap-up Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models
9:00 - 9:30 NRC Wrap-up Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models
9:30 - 10:00 State Wrap-up Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models
10:00 - 12:00 Preparation of Draft Meeting Summary
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 5:00 Discussion and Finalization of Meeting Summary