MEMORANDUM FOR: Mel Silberberg, Chief
Waste Management Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Research

FROM: Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch
Division of High Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FROM OFFICE OF RESEARCH FOR SITE CHARACTERIZATION ANALYSIS AND STUDY PLAN REVIEWS IN AREAS OF GEOLOGY, GEOPHYSICS AND GEOSTATISTICS

This memorandum is to confirm the need for RES support in the areas of geology, geophysics and geostatistics to the Geosciences and Systems Performance Branch in its review of DOE's SCP and selected study plans. There is no change to the anticipated needs described to you at a meeting on January 17, 1989.

We will be requesting support in reviewing specific study plans in the areas of:

geophysical techniques (known expert - E. Zerflueh)

magmatism and volcanism; fluid-wallrock interactions
(known expert - L. Kovach)

geostatistics and probabilistic hazard analysis
(known expert - L. Abramson)

Study plans containing material in some of these subject areas have not yet been received from DOE, but are expected this year. Thus, while we cannot identify specific support needs at this time, we will inform you as soon as we have concrete schedules.

Further, we anticipate the need for assistance from RES in performing selected detailed analyses to support SCA recommendations in the above areas. Specific requests for RES support will be developed in April after the HLGP staff has developed draft Point Papers which address technical concerns identified during the SCP review in progress.

We recognize the following areas of expertise in RES that might be applied to the SCA and to study plan reviews, but we do not wish to call upon those resources as long as NMSS has resources available in those areas:

surface faulting/trenching investigations
(known expert - R. McMullen)

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seismology (known expert - A. Murphy)

At this time I request that you review the above broad statement of need and assess whether or not support can be furnished in those areas in this fiscal year. For example, it would be useful to know if any of the suggested individual experts might not be available, or what constraints an individual or his/her supervisor might have to deal with when a specific request for support is identified.

I consider that this early identification of need for RES support will facilitate our staff's future interactions in these areas.

Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch
Division of High Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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