



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

DEC 15 1987

Mr. Ralph Stein, Director
Engineering & Geotechnology Division
RW-30
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Mr. Stein:

During our management meeting on December 2, 1987, we discussed many aspects of the consultation draft SCP workshops. Based on these discussions and subsequent NRC staff planning we have developed the proposal given below.

Scope

The scope of the consultation draft SCP workshops should focus only on the information in the SCPs and their references; more detailed information that would be in either study plans or procedures should not be discussed. Furthermore, these workshops should not include environmental related information which might be more suitable for a separate workshop(s) with the appropriate parties.

Objectives

NRC's objectives for these workshops are as follows:

- 1) Present preliminary NRC staff concerns and recommendations
- 2) Discuss NRC staff preliminary concerns and recommendations for clarification and understanding
- 3) Where possible resolve preliminary concerns based on DOE explanations of applicable sections of the SCP
- 4) Discuss State and Tribal concerns for clarification and understanding

Topics

We agree with the DOE proposal for a plenary meeting on January 28-29, 1988. However, by this date, having only had the draft consultation SCPs for review for less than three weeks, we will not have identified the specific topics for discussion at the workshops. We propose that only broad topics should be agreed upon at the January meeting. Following completion of our technical review of the consultation draft SCPs, we will provide to DOE and other parties, our preliminary concerns prior to the workshops. These concerns would define the specific topics that NRC would present and discuss in each of the workshops and thereby assist the DOE in preparing for discussions on these specific topics. In addition, the objectives listed above could be used as the major agenda items for each workshop.

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As we discussed in our December 2, 1987 management meeting the three, one week long workshops for each site proposed by DOE would not be adequate to achieve the objectives stated above. Therefore, we propose the following topics for five workshops:

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|---|--|
| 1) Performance allocations | Licensing strategies, measures, goals and confidence levels for each issue (SCP sections 8.1 and 8.2) |
| 2) Geology, hydrology | Information/parameter needs (SCP sections 8.2, 8.3); programs, investigations, and activities (SCP section 8.3); and schedules (SCP section 8.5) |
| 3) Geochemistry, waste package | |
| 4) Rockmechanics, exploratory shaft, repository | |
| 5) Performance assessment, quality assurance | Performance assessment program (SCP section 8.3.5) and quality assurance program (SCP section 8.6) |

The above topics seem broad enough to cover any specific comment that we are likely to want to discuss. Therefore, they provide flexibility for the staff to prepare any specific concern resulting from their review and avoid prematurely committing to specific topics in the January meeting.

Workshop Record

It is our view that these workshops should be designed to emphasize and promote open technical exchange of information and ideas among all parties. A key factor in achieving this would be to limit the workshop record to the agenda, list of attendees, and handouts used in presentations on preliminary concerns.

Schedule and Locations

For workshops 1 and 5 above, concerns for all three SCPs could be covered in a one week workshop for each topic. For the workshops 2, 3, and 4 above, our preliminary planning indicates that each of these workshops should be about

one week in duration for each project as DOE has proposed. We also consider that workshops on the same topics should not be scheduled for different projects at the same time. Concurrent workshops on the same topic are not possible since many of our staff and contractors are involved with the review of more than one SCP. With these considerations in mind, we propose that the five workshops be conducted over approximately a ten week period.

We also propose that both the first workshop on performance allocation and the last workshop on performance assessment and quality assurance be held in Washington, D. C. This would allow attendance by all of our lead team members in each discipline. In addition, this would result in a significant savings in our limited travel funds.

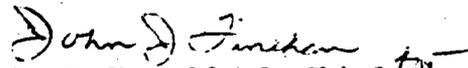
In the summary, our view of the overall review and workshop schedule is as follows:

- 1) Conduct NRC technical review and prepare preliminary comments--6 weeks
- 2) Complete all workshops --approximately 10 weeks
- 3) Prepare final NRC comments--3 weeks.

We recognize that the approximately 16 weeks needed for our review and workshops will result in completing the workshops in early May instead of the March 31, 1988 date proposed by DOE; however, the additional time is necessary for meaningful review and consultations. We consider that the opportunity for workshops to focus on discussing specific concerns with the SCP could make important progress toward early identification and resolution of potential licensing concerns and should result in a higher quality SCP. Therefore, every effort should be made to maximize the benefit from this opportunity.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of our proposal please call me at X74177 or J. Linehan at X74235. We look forward to your response to our proposal.

Sincerely,


B. J. Youngblood, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of High-Level Waste
Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
As stated

cc States and Tribes
J. O. Neff, DOE/SRPO
C. Gertz, DOE/WMPO
J. Antonnen, DOE/BWIP

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MEMORANDUM FOR: R. Stein

FROM: B.J. Youngblood

SUBJECT: CDSCP WORKSHOPS

DATE:

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