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Mr. Jefferson O. Neff
Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Salt Repository Project Office
505 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201-2693

Subject: Release of Pennzoil Proprietary Seismic Data in the Area of the Deaf Smith Site

Dear Mr. Neff:

As discussed between our staffs, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has been in contact with Pennzoil Exploration and Production company and has learned of the release of seismic data in the area of the proposed Deaf Smith Site. This information was formerly considered proprietary by Pennzoil, but is recently available through their broker, Geo-Search Corporation. As this newly available data may provide valuable information on the subsurface characteristics in the vicinity of the proposed site, the NRC staff considers that this information should be reviewed to determine the significance to the general data base on the Deaf Smith Site. Ms. Tricia Jones, of Geo-Search, who is the person who is most familiar with this data, can be reached at (915) 683-6191.

Please inform us of your plans to evaluate this seismic data. We are also interested in receiving the results of your evaluation.

Sincerely,

JS
John J. Linehan, Acting Chief
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: T. Verma, NRC
A. Avel, SRPO
M. Ferrigan, SRPO

WM Record File

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WM Project 16

Docket No. _____

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