



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

OCT 28 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management

FROM: F. Robert Cook
Senior On-Site Licensing Representative
Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP)

SUBJECT: BWIP SITE REPORT FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, 1983

1. Rockwell completed its logic network for tasks making up site characterization. (I have not seen final network yet.) This document should be kept at NRC for use in planning workshops to review data collection and analyses.
2. The American Nuclear Society (ANS) has prepared a draft specification for site characterization testing. The current version upon which RHO recently commented is Draft 4. Its identification number is 2.24. RHO has noted that their piezometer network does not meet requirements for testing in 2.24.
3. Vertical permeabilities have recently been calculated from data from DC-4 and DC-5. I believe the appropriate report is SD-BWI-TI-136.
4. RHO is finishing planning for a public reading room which will contain about 20 percent of the documents they have prepared and will prepare. It is to be housed in the room next to the current Science Center. It should be operable in about one month. WM should request that a current listing of future meetings be maintained by DOE in this reading room. I don't consider DOE should rely on the Federal Register alone to provide to the public the information on meetings pertinent to BWIP.
5. RHO is planning to test spent fuel obtained from PNL in a waste package test program. NRC should request the test plan and other pertinent documents and be prepared to comment on this test at the forthcoming workshop.
6. Bill Lee at Weston (963-6817) is active in IAEA work to establish performance analyses standards. He would be a good individual to meet with to understand what the Swiss and Swedes are doing in the way of reliability analyses. Apparently, from discussion with RHO

WM Record File	WM Project <u>10</u>
<u>101</u>	Docket No. <u>✓</u>
8406110088 831028	PDR <u>✓</u>
PDR WASTE	LPDR <u>✓</u>
WM-10	
PDR	
Distribution:	
(Return to WM, 623-SS)	<u>Rec'd in REB 4/84</u>

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(Sonnichsen), they have completed some analyses and the analytical documents are available.

7. I believe a major issue is surfacing--the use of the unsaturated zone in Rattlesnake Mountain. Waste Management should become aware of the pro's and con's and be able to reply consistently to questions we will get regarding its use as a repository. We should keep in mind that both the USGS and NAS consider it a desirable location at Hanford. Reasoning used by NTS to justify a dry site appears applicable to Rattlesnake Mountain. A key RHO scientist who knows about the history of Rattlesnake Mountain as a repository is Don Brown. I suggest a geologist discuss the history with him. I am interfacing with Brown also.
8. Mr. Garner's tour was accomplished on Wednesday. Two primary issues were identified.
 - a. The features in 10 CFR 61 which require keeping track of low level activity inventories in all packages are unwarranted in light of the fact that the majority of the packages do not contribute much to the total inventory in a low level waste site. A few "hot" packages provide most of the inventory.
 - b. The activities of USGS for DOE may constitute a conflict of interest when it comes to their role of advising NRC on licensing issues.

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Sr. On-Site Licensing Rep, BWIP

cc: HJMiller
JTGreeves
JOBunting
MRKnapp
FRCook



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me.
RSH
Bunting*

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