



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 2, 1983

1. RHO met with the DOE BWIP Overview Committee for the purpose of reviewing the in-situ test plan to be presented to NRC in November 1983 and to be discussed at the end of November at a workshop. Key characteristics of the plan areas follows.

- a. No thermal-mechanical or thermal hydraulic testing is planned.
- b. No radioactive waste package is in the test plans.
- c. The testing is primarily aimed at determining geotechnical site characteristics pertinent to constructability.
- d. Analytic bases for data pertinent to site performance evaluation is not available to indicate how data will be used.
- e. The shaft is planned to be extended down to the bottom of the Umtanum. This is intended to allow expeditious redirection of site investigations to lower strata if the Cohasset flow is not acceptable.
- f. Current schedule does not incorporate the time to assess or explore underground structures found during the in-situ exploration. The point was made by an overview committee member that extra time should be allotted for unforeseen investigations.

These as well as other issues raised in the SCA concerning in-situ testing should be discussed at the November workshop.

On October 6 I attended a classroom session on criticality safety and satisfactorily passed the test. The class was a prerequisite for visiting BWIP irradiation test facilities in the 200 West area in the

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future. One additional classroom session on radiation safety is necessary before access can become routine.



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