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

MAY 22 1984

WM Record File

109

WM Project 1

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTE TO: File ~~3180~~, 3109

FROM: Hubert J. Miller

Distribution:

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

SUBJECT: RECORD OF TELECONFERENCE, MARCH 2, 1984

NRC

R. E. Browning  
H. J. Miller  
S. Coplan (part-time)

DOE

W. Bennett  
R. Stein  
M. Frei  
R. Mussler (part-time)

The telephone discussion was held to review status of interactions between NRC and DOE on matters listed in the attached agenda.

Major points in the discussion and agreements are as follows:

1. NRC indicated that its review plan for repository quality assurance programs which was noticed in the Federal Register is near being finalized by J. Kennedy. Following this, the NRC staff would like to conduct a series of site visits by a team of staff quality assurance experts to the various DOE projects. This would be done in a manner similar to what has been done in the geochemistry area where the visits are done consecutively within a several week period. Recognizing that quality assurance programs are still being developed, these site visits would be "fact finding" in nature and would provide DOE program managers and staff opportunity to consult with NRC's QA experts. Bennett and Stein agreed with this proposal. Miller and Kennedy are to propose a detailed schedule.
2. Miller, Browning and Coplan identified major points needing change in the proposed project level procedural agreement that had been forwarded to NRC signed by DOE officials. NRC is revising the agreement to resolve its problems. A signed version of the revised agreement with a "line-in/line-out" copy showing changes from the DOE proposal will be forwarded to DOE within about two weeks.

NRC (Miller) expressed the need for a periodic, regularly scheduled management meeting at headquarters level to take up interface matters. (e.g., on a one to two month basis.) The meetings would be noticed in an appropriate fashion. They would permit (in the manner envisioned by the June agreement Section 2.b) taking up unresolved management issues that

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have been raised at the project level and would assure that in general there is frequent attention given to agency interface matters.

NRC also stated that experience of interactions to date indicates that there is a need to conduct technical meetings on selected generic topics that involve DOE headquarters in addition to DOE projects. These meetings would be announced in an appropriate fashion and open to the public as observers and States and Tribes as participants. Bennett agreed with this and suggested NRC submit proposed agendas (See item 4 below). Bennett and Stein agreed with this idea. NRC will make specific proposals for such interactions and on notification mechanisms in the letter forwarding the project procedural agreement.

3. Miller stated that NRC Project Section Chiefs were working to get agreement with DOE Site project managers to settle on a program of interactions (data reviews and technical meetings) before EA's are issued. Miller indicated that the DOE PM's were being cooperative and will send to Bennett a copy of a letter from Linehan to Neff describing what NRC believes are commitments are for the Salt project. This letter is illustrative of what is needed at all sites.
4. Miller discussed two of the major potential licensing issues that have remained as open items for the past year in discussions at each of the sites. These issues are performance allocation and in situ testing. See attached agenda. Given potential impact on schedules and the fact that these issues will require action by DOE management to settle, it was proposed that general meetings be held on these topics in the near future. NRC will forward agendas of proposed meetings to DOE for these meetings.

The possibility of taking up the issue on establishment of repository system component performance requirements in connection with NRC presentations to the DOE performance assessment national peer review group (PANRG) within the next few months was discussed. Mark Logsdon for NRC and Carl Cooley of DOE were identified as points of contact for coordination on both a meeting to review the licensing issue and NRC's presentation to the PANRG.

5. Miller indicated that a special program was being initiated to track potential licensing issues at each site. As well, there is an NRC effort (Joe Bunting lead) to identify what kind of data base, document and information retrievability is needed for licensing hearings and proceedings. Miller proposed and DOE agreed to hold a meeting at some time in the near future on these points with NRC staff. NRC committed to contact DOE (Stein) on the arrangements.

6. Bennett reviewed current schedules. Based upon an April 30, NRC concurrence on Siting Guidelines, the following schedules were given:

- draft EA's issued August 1, 1983

- SCP's

BWIP - January 1985

NTS - March 1985

Salt - August/September 1985

To Bill Bennett

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AGENDA FOR MANAGEMENT MEETING  
BETWEEN DOE/NRC ON HLW  
REPOSITORY LICENSING

Review current status of interactions between the agencies on high level waste repositories, identify problems and discuss actions may be needed.

- o Quality Assurance
  - NRC review plan status /
  - NRC review of specific DOE programs
- o Procedural Agreement
  - Notification to public/States/Tribes
  - Data release
  - Establish different levels of interaction (e.g., distinguish "data reviews" from meetings involving substantive discussion)
  - Problem areas from the past - USGS data release, methods of notification: access to data and information
  - Generic technical and management meetings
- o Status of site-specific interactions and problems
- o Status of licensing issues - results of past years prelicensing consultations.
  - Systems component performance requirements
  - Site characterization testing; e.g., NRC position on BWIP testing
- o Licensing issue tracking systems and data base management required for licensing hearings
- o DOE schedules and other mission plan items
- o Status of NRC guidance documents