

JUN 11 1993

MEMORANDUM TO: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REVISED PROCEDURAL AND PROJECT-SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the enclosed revised "Procedural Agreement Between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy Identifying Guiding Principles for Interface During Geologic Site Investigation and Site Characterization" (hereafter referred to as the Procedural Agreement), and the "Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Division of High-Level Waste Management During Site Characterization Programs and Prior to the Submittal of an Application for Authorization to Construct a Repository" (hereafter referred to as the Project-Specific Agreement) for transmittal to the Commissioner Assistants for information. These documents outline the revised procedures for staff consultation and exchange of information which the staff and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its designated contractors will observe in connection with the characterization of sites for a geologic repository under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended.

The substantive changes that were incorporated into the Procedural Agreement dealt with newly added or revised guidelines for conducting technical exchanges, site visits, licensing and management meetings, and quality assurance audits and surveillances. Similarly, major changes in the Project-Specific Agreement included revised guidelines for preparing interaction reports, maintaining and distributing site characterization data, communications between points of contact from NRC and DOE project offices, acquisition of samples during site characterization activities by NRC contractors, and specific on-site representative responsibilities and authority.

The staff will begin implementing these revised agreements by training both NRC and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staff on the revised Procedural and Project-Specific Agreements, as well as any applicable policies and procedures regarding openness with the State and affected units of local government. This training, scheduled for the July 1993 time frame, will complete the follow-up action committed to in the memorandum for the Chairman, dated April 8, 1992, on openness of interactions between NRC and DOE.

Courtesy copies of both agreements were provided to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for their review, although OIG indicated that no formal review was necessary.

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James L. Blaha

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If you have any questions concerning these issues, please contact me at 504-3352, or Mr. Joseph Holonich of my staff at 504-3387.

Original signed by
Robert M. Bernero

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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