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MEMORANDUM FOR: Newton K. Stablein, Project Manager
Repository Licensing Project Directorate, HLWM

FROM: Donald L. Chery, Jr., Section Leader
Hydrologic Transport Section
Geosciences and Systems Performance Branch

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO DOE 10/13/88 LETTER TO JOHN LINEHAN, CONCERNING INFORMATION ON THE DOE TECHNICAL DATA BASES PERTINENT TO THE SITING OF THE REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN.

On October 13, 1988, the U.S. Department of Energy responded to an August 11, 1988, NRC request for implementing "read-only" computer access to DOE technical data bases pertinent to the siting Yucca Mountain repository. DOE describes the technical data bases for Yucca Mountain as the Reference Information Base (RIB), the Site and Engineering Properties Data Base (SEPDB), which "is the central data base for project site characterization data," and Local Records Centers, which are now being established. The DOE offered to allow NRC access to the Site and Engineering Properties Data Base (SEPDB) by submitting written requests for data and by making selections from a printed catalog of the data base contents that is updated annually. DOE claims that direct computer access to the SEPDB is not possible because of Sandia National Laboratory computer security constraints. However, they do offer to provide "interim status updates on the SEPDB content" on a quarterly schedule in addition to the regular annual revision of the catalog.

Fundamentally this offer is unacceptable. Eventually the DOE technical data bases for Yucca Mountain need to be on a computer system that does not have security constraints so that direct "read only" access to the data bases can be arranged. This arrangement would provide access to the site physical and technical data as they become available and in a format that could be manipulated by computer programs for NRC technical staff scrutiny and evaluation. Also the NRC technical staff should have "read only" computer access to the "reduced data" at the Local Records Center data bases. It is requested that you inform DOE that such access needs to arranged and that you negotiate with them an acceptable schedule and the appropriate protocols for access to the data bases.

Until this direct computer access is available, the controlled quarterly updates of the RIB and the annual and quarterly updates of the SEPDB should be sent to NRC headquarters. Further, when data is transmitted from a participant's system to the SEPDB the NRC should receive a copy of the transmittal record.

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To prepare to use these data bases, the NRC technical staff needs copies of the documentation on data base description, operator manuals for the relational data base (INGRES) and the Interactive Graphics Information System (IGIS), Sandia Document Draft AP 5.2Q for the SEPDB, documentation on the functioning of the Sandia Terminal Switching Network, all documentation on organization and structure of the Sandia Data Records Management System (such as - SNL NNWSI Project DOP 11-3, "DRMs Interaction Requirements"; DOP17-2, "Operations of the SNL NNWSI Data Records Management System"; DOP 3-11, Computer User's Manual; etc.), and all pertinent documentation on the Local Records Centers data bases for all the other "participants." Please request copies of these documents from DOE. Also in the course of NRC's preparation for use of the data bases, we could use, on an interim basis, a magnetic tape of the SEPDB. Please make the necessary arrangements to obtain such a tape according to the specifications of the technical staff.

Should you have any questions please contact William Ford (X20506).

Donald L. Chery, Jr., Section Leader
Hydrologic Transport Section
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch, HLWM

cc: R. Ballard, HLGP
J. Linehan, RLPD
J. Corrado, RLPD

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