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MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert L. Johnson, Project Manager  
 Repository Projects Branch  
 Division of Waste Management

FROM: Michael Tokar  
 Engineering Branch  
 Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: Salt EA Review Status for Waste Package Performance

Pursuant to your request, the following comprises a written status report on the Salt environmental assessment (EA) prereview document and data inventory effort in the area of waste package design and performance. The following subject areas are addressed in the order listed in your note of April 11, 1984 requesting this status report.

1. Summary of Work Planned and Completed

As you know, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) is providing us technical assistance (TA) on the EA prereview and is currently engaged in the document and data inventory effort. Attached are typed copies of document review sheets prepared by BNL (I have previously supplied you with hand-written copies). The completed forms you see here address basalt and tuff as well as salt. The sheets we grouped according to the following sequence: (1) basalt (2) salt, (3) tuff, (4) general. There are approximately 45 documents in the salt compilation.

You will note that the BNL document review resulted in just that, a document review, not a data review. It is clear, however, that it is the data, not documentation, that is of primary importance in the assessment of waste package design and performance prediction. We have, therefore, redirected BNL to focus their remaining EA prereview - TA activity in the inventory and assessment of data. They will concentrate the remainder of their TA effort in that way, by re-examining key documents already reviewed and new sources of information from the standpoint of the significance of the data to the understanding of waste package performance issues. For this effort BNL is utilizing newly-prepared data review forms, the format of which we provided you earlier also. A few examples of the resultant product are shown as attachment 2. I trust you will agree that the data reviews tend to be much more comprehensive using the new format and approach.

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BNL will continue to work on the data inventory through the month of June. They are, as well, tying this effort to the identification of potential waste package performance issues. (Included as part of attachment 2 are some "issue identification" sheets.) As we have previously discussed however, neither BNL nor we have identified any waste package issues requiring meetings with DOE as part of the EA review per se. This is consistent with our understanding that waste package performance will receive about one page of discussion (as an appendix) out of a total of about 1,000 pages in each EA.

In other words, waste package performance is essentially irrelevant with regard to deciding whether a particular site is suitable for further characterization. We are, therefore, approaching the EA prereview as an opportunity to improve our knowledge of the state of the art in preparation for future licensing activities involving site characterization.

With regard to in-house activities, either taken or planned (as apart from BNL-related EA work) it was our intention from the beginning to develop our own inventory in parallel to, but somewhat independent of what BNL did. Chuck Peterson and I still hope to do some of this, but based on the past few months experience and work-load projections for the next 2 1/2 months, I expect that we will not have the time to do much in-depth, independent study.

## 2. Document Control Center Document List

Regarding your request for identification of key documents in the document control center (DCC) listing of siting reports, there are only a handful of documents in the entire listing that address the waste package by title. They are, by DCC log number and report number, listed in the table below.

### DCC-Listed Waste Package-Related Documents

<u>Log-No.</u>	<u>Report-No.</u>
00582	SAND79-1935J
00580	SAND81-1585
00031	BMI/ONWI-521
00010	ONWI-464
01010	ONWI-452

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3. Key Documents Identified on the DCC List

Pursuant to your request to identify key documents in the DCC listing by double asterisks (\*\*), please refer to the above tabulation for documents that may be "Key." The DCC listing is comprised almost entirely of earth science-related reports. As such, there may be some (perhaps many) that contain information bearing on waste package performance, (as well as geochemistry, for example) at least indirectly, but we have not had the time to check this out.

4. Supplemental-Document-Lists

We have not developed any supplemental document lists.

5. Data Inventory Sheets Format

We have provided you with an example of the data inventory sheet format. You can see how these can be used by examining the sheets in Attachment 2.

6. Data Inventory Sheets Completed

See attachment 2 for examples of data inventory sheets. The larger compilation (attachment 1.) is of the document review sheets.

7. Comments

None.

Michael Tokar  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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