



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

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*Here's your
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Mr. John B. Martin, Director
Division of Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Martin:

We have recently become aware of a contract that the research group of the Commission has with the ASTM Committee on Soil and Rock Mechanics. The purpose of the contract is to develop draft standard testing procedures for conducting laboratory or in situ tests used in the evaluation of nuclear waste repositories.

We are planning for similar activities with a considerably broader province, including rock-mechanics procedures, the drafting of consensus procedures for geochemistry and hydrology, etc. Before we start our effort though, we would appreciate being apprised of any additional work of a geotechnical-standards-setting nature that either you or the research group is sponsoring or plans to sponsor, apart from the aforementioned rock-mechanics work. Additionally, we ask that you keep us informed as to the status of the ongoing work in rock mechanics.

We believe that by factoring NRC-sponsored work into our program we will avoid unnecessary duplication in the preparation of standards. Mr. Thomas P. Longo of the Office of Waste Isolation staff is the contact on our standards and can be reached by telephone on 353-3791.

Sincerely,

J.W. Bennett, for

Franklin E. Coffman
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Nuclear Waste Management
and Fuel Cycle Programs
Office of Nuclear Energy