



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

APR 4 1989

Mr. John Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and
Quality Assurance Directorate
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

References:

- 1) Letter from R. Browning to R. Stein; dated October 14, 1988; re: Transmittal of Summary of the September 29-30, 1988, Technical Exchange Meeting on the Waste Acceptance Process for the Defense Waste Processing Facility.
- 2) Letter from J. Linehan to R. Stein; dated December 5, 1988; re: various items related to Waste Acceptance Process interactions.
- 3) Letter from J. Linehan to R. Stein; dated February 7, 1989; re: NRC Comments on OGR/B-14.
- 4) Letter from G. Appel to J. Linehan; dated January 30, 1989; re: Response to NRC letters dated October 14, 1988 and December 5, 1988.

Dear Mr. Linehan:

This letter is in response to your requests for an integrated schedule addressing the expected interactions of the Waste Acceptance Process in the context of other repository program DOE/NRC interactions (References 1, 2, and 3). As indicated in our letter (Reference 4) we have been working to provide such a schedule. Attachment 1 is a draft integrated schedule of potential interactions through December 1989.

As we have discussed, the purpose of this schedule is to provide a mechanism by which we can plan our interactions and resource needs. It is not intended to represent an inviolate commitment to the interactions or deliverables identified. The schedule represents our best estimate at this time of the relative timing of interactions which may change based on program priorities or resource constraints. However, it does represent a means for us to review and update our scheduled interactions, and as such is a positive step toward increasing the effectiveness of our interactions. The schedule is subdivided into eight general areas of interaction.

- a) Reference - major program events intended solely to provide a reference basis for the other areas;

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- b) SCP - events or interactions directly related to the SCP;
- c) Study Plans - events or interactions directly related to the Study Plans;
- d) Quality Assurance - events or interactions on the topic of Quality Assurance (not intended to represent the entire spectrum of interactions such as audits);
- e) Design Process - events or interactions related to the design of the ESF (not intended to represent the entire spectrum of potential interactions such as design and readiness reviews);
- f) Technical & Regulatory Positions - events or interactions related to the discussion of technical or regulatory items;
- g) Waste Acceptance Process - events or interactions related to the Waste Acceptance Process for both the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP);
- h) Other - events or interactions relating to topics not included in the above categories, (intended to include briefings to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, among others).

As part of the process of developing this schedule, we have modified our approach in the area of Waste Acceptance Process. There are three major aspects to the modifications. All the previously identified documentation will be transmitted for NRC's information; however, we will only be requesting NRC review of a limited set of the documentation (i.e., Waste Acceptance Preliminary Specifications; Waste Compliance Plans; Process Control Plans; and Waste Qualification Report sections 6, 7, and 9) prior to DOE facility startup decisions. The portions of the waste acceptance documentation addressing process control (previously part of individual Waste Qualification Report sections) will be combined into a single Process Control Plan. Also, the scheduling of interactions on the topic of Waste Acceptance Process is predicated on the assumption that at least one exchange of correspondence has taken place to reduce the number of items that need to be addressed in meetings.

We believe that the next step in beginning to utilize this schedule to our mutual advantage is to establish a meeting to discuss the schedule. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to reach agreement on a specific date and time for a meeting.



Gordon Appel, Chief
Licensing Branch
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

R. Bernero, NRC
R. Browning, NRC
B.J. Youngblood, NRC
R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
C. Johnson, State of Nevada

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