



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUN 10 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management

FROM: B. J. Youngblood, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management

SUBJECT: MAY 13, 1988 MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH DOE
CONCERNING HIGH-LEVEL WASTE

ATTENDEES: NRC: H. L. Thompson, Jr., R. E. Browning, B. J. Youngblood
DOE: Ed Kay, Steve Kale, Ralph Stein

NRC/NMSS met with DOE/OCRWM to discuss mutual items of interest associated with the high-level waste repository program. DOE was informed that a second NRC On-Site Representative would be stationed at our Nevada Office this summer. His primary area of responsibility will be in the area of Quality Assurance. NRC agreed to provide DOE with a description of each On-Site Representative's areas of responsibility.

DOE inquired about the process of NRC's notification that their QA Program is considered qualified. DOE agreed that they would formally submit each contractor's QA Plan for NRC approval. Then NRC will issue a safety evaluation for each formally submitted QA Plan. The safety evaluation would indicate the approval or degree of approval of the QA plan. DOE would be expected to inspect each contractor and determine if the plan was being appropriately implemented. NRC would observe those DOE inspections and, where necessary independently audit. The NRC audit reports would indicate the status of NRC approval of the DOE QA programs. NRC noted that DOE delays in formal submittals and resolution of outstanding NRC concerns could result in delaying programmatic approval and the start of new work. It was further noted that OCRWM's finding of acceptable implementation of their contractor's QA plans (some plans will include inspection of other contractors for DOE) may require a substantial effort and result in more delay in each QA program's final approval.

NRC informed DOE that the Commission had requested the new Advisory Committee for Nuclear Waste (ACNW) to review the staff's Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) prior to the Commission's decision on the SCA. Schedules for the review of the DOE Site Characterization Plan needs to take this additional review into account by DOE as well as NRC. In this regard, DOE indicated they would take the initiative to keep the ACNW informed by scheduling briefings early in the review process.

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Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.

- 2 -

JUN 10 1988

A general discussion of Rulemaking and Topical Reports as vehicles for addressing and resolving issues was held. NRC indicated that any issues to be addressed through these processes needed increased priority to be useful during the pre-licensing phase. DOE was requested to identify any issues where such productive interactions were considered appropriate and timely.

151

B. J. Youngblood, Chief
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cc: E. Kay, DOE
S. Kale, DOE
R. Stein, DOE

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