

#3 27-MAR-1987 6:20:28  
From: VAX730::BOLSTAD  
To: AMEY, BOLSTAD  
Subj: CC OF DRAFT LETTER--SENT TO FORSHEY VIA E-MAIL EARLY THIS WEEK.

March 23, 1987

Robert E. Browning, Director  
Division of Waste Management, MMS  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

WM DOCKET CONTROL CENTER  
87 APR 22 04:02

Dear Mr. Browning:

We have reviewed your letter of December 22, 1986 requesting the Bureau of Mines to provide an opinion on the feasibility of drilling shafts and constructing a repository in the Cohasset flow at the Hanford site. The Bureau is willing to render an opinion on this question, but the answer will have to be qualified pending the development of more precise data on the various unknowns. We can assume some worst possible scenarios for horizontal stress and temperature, but the potential for high water inflows can easily be the major controlling factor in determining feasibility. Also, the question of feasibility itself must be considered from both a technical and economic viewpoint. Almost anything is feasible technically if we are willing to spend enough money.

I have assigned the Spokane and Denver Research Centers the primary responsibility for carrying out this task.

In developing our response, we feel that some additional time will be needed to review and re-review pertinent background information and better clarify some of the unknowns. This can probably be done within a 3-month time period. It is proposed that the Bureau develop a schedule and a set of questions relating to the scope and purpose of this study. This information can be discussed with NRC personnel at the upcoming review meeting for our task work covering "Rock Support in Underground Geologic Repositories". This meeting is tentatively planned for late April.

If you have any suggestions or disagreements with this approach, please contact me. At the present time, we have in our possession only documents 1 and 2 listed in your letter of December 22nd. We would like to obtain copies of the other 6 documents.

David Forshey  
Assistant Director--Mining Research

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PDR WASTE  
WM-10 PDR

WM Record File 101  
WM Project 10  
Docket No.  
PDR  
LPDR  
Distribution:  
Date to WM 870828

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ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		ACTION	
1 TO (Name, office symbol or location) John T. Greeves, Chief Engineering Branch	INITIALS	CIRCULATE	
	DATE	COORDINATION	
2 Division of Waste Management N.M.S.S.	INITIALS	FILE	
	DATE	INFORMATION	
3 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission	INITIALS	NOTE AND RETURN	
	DATE	PER CON- VERSATION	
4 Washington, D.C. 20555	INITIALS	SEE ME	
	DATE	SIGNATURE	

REMARKS

Enclosed is a draft of the reply to the Bureau's position on the Hanford site.

WM Record File 101 WM Project 10  
 Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

PDR   
 XLPDR  (B)

Distribution:  
 J Greeves  
 Corrado  
 (Return to WM, 623-SS)

Hinchman  
 H. Benbrand

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FROM (Name, office symbol or location) Earl B. Arney	DATE 4/15/87
	PHONE 634-1253

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