

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ISSUE-ORIENTED SITE  
TECHNICAL POSITIONS IN THE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROGRAM

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions (ISTPs) for the following potential geologic repository sites:

- o Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP)
- o Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI)
- o Salt Repository Project (SRP)
  - Permian Basin Sites
  - Paradox Basin Sites
  - Gulf Coast Dome Sites

The ISTPs address site issues in the areas of geology/geophysics, waste package, geologic repository operations area design/rock mechanics, hydrology, and geochemistry.

DATE: The comment period expires (insert the date 60 days after publication).

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Hubert J. Miller, Chief, Repository Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

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Mail-Stop 623-SS, Washington, D.C. 20555. Copies of these documents may be obtained free of charge upon written request to Nancy Still, Docket Control Center, Division of Waste Management, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail-Stop 623-SS, Washington, D.C. 20555, Telephone 1-800-368-5642, Ext. 74426 or 427-4426 for Washington area callers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hubert J. Miller, Chief, Repository Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Telephone (301) 427-4177.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, (NWPA) and Commission Regulation 10 CFR Part 60 promote consultation between the Department of Energy (DOE) and NRC prior to submittal of a license application for a geologic repository. These pre-licensing consultations are to fully inform DOE about the level of information that must be provided in a license application to allow a licensing decision to be made by NRC. Guidance to DOE will be provided in NRC Site Characterization Analyses (SCAs) which document staff reviews of DOE Site Characterization Plans to be submitted according to the NWPA and 10 CFR Part 60. Supplementary guidance is presented in staff technical positions on both generic and site-specific issues.

The Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions noticed in this announcement identify and present the rationales for the detailed technical questions (licensing issues) that must be addressed prior to licensing for each of several potentially acceptable sites that have been identified by DOE.

This will allow a determination of site and design suitability in terms of 10 CFR Part 60. They have been developed through a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the overall geologic repository system and its components and, based on current knowledge, identify those site issues that the NRC staff considers will be needed as a minimum to address 10 CFR Part 60, Subpart E.

Although submission of a license application by DOE is not expected for several years, these ISTPs are being issued at this early stage of the prelicensing consultation and guidance process for several reasons:

- 1) The issues presented will serve as a set of benchmarks against which the NRC staff can independently review the relevance and completeness of issues identified by DOE in the Site Characterization Plans (SCPs).
- 2) The issues provide a systematic structure for staff guidance to DOE for tracking the progress toward addressing staff concerns about licensing throughout the site characterization process. The intent is to establish a tracking system which ties together all of the various documents that are pertinent to a given issue.
- 3) Finally, the issues provide a systematic and logical framework for NRC staff to organize the ultimate task of assessing geologic repository performance and compliance with criteria of 10 CFR Part 60.

The ISTPs will be followed by more detailed Site Technical Positions (STPs) which address one or more specific licensing issues. Items to be addressed in STPs include specific data information needs, methods of data collection and analyses, and treatment of uncertainties.

This announcement provides notice of availability and solicits comments on the aforementioned draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions.

Dated at Silver Spring, Maryland, this 3rd day of November 1984.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Linehan".

John J. Linehan, Acting Chief  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management