

JAN 18 1990

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director  
for Systems Integration and Regulations  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, RW-30  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

SUBJECT: MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 7, 1989 INTERACTIONS SCHEDULING MEETING

Enclosed are the minutes from the November 7, 1989 interactions scheduling meeting held between the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose was to discuss the interactions to be scheduled between December 1989 and April 1990 and identify the interactions for May through September 1990.

At the meeting, the number of interactions agreed on was limited to no more than one per month and these interactions focused on areas related to surface based testing. However, it should be noted that the staff needs to be involved in all areas where DOE has ongoing work, including planning and design activities. The limited number of interactions agreed upon does not allow the staff to evaluate work in other critical areas, such as shaft design, where DOE and the staff agreed in July 1989 that interactions were needed to resolve the staff's Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) objection.

The lack of early and ongoing interactions could result in problems similar to those encountered in the Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF), Title I design that necessitated the Design Acceptability Analysis. In addition, it is our understanding that DOE will be performing evaluations to respond to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's questions on the ESF without having interacted with the staff on related ESF issues identified in the SCA. The staff understands that DOE is presently evaluating its program taking into account recent developments, and agreed to discuss the need for additional interactions once DOE completes this evaluation. However, it is important that DOE understand the need for early and frequent interactions as work is being developed.

Also at the meeting, DOE stated that it would consider the need for Technology Workshops. However, DOE noted that the topics proposed for the workshops were too broad to allow for an effective exchange and requested that the staff identify specific areas of work the NRC wanted to discuss. The staff is presently reviewing these topics in an attempt to narrow the scope. By doing so the staff hopes to establish a sound basis for holding Technology Workshops. The staff believes that the use of Technology Workshops are important in that they will allow the NRC staff the opportunity to talk directly with the DOE investigators who have performed the experiments and investigations.

9001240035 900118  
PDR WASTE PDC  
WM-1

109  
WM-1  
1/16/90

Finally, DOE indicated that Technical Exchanges dealing with the glass production at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and the Defense Waste Process Facility (DWPF) were not covered by the budgetary restrictions imposed on the repository program. The staff believes that Technical Exchanges and Site Visits to the WVDP and DWPF should be held. To initiate these activities, the staff is requesting by this letter a Site Visit to the DWPF in early 1990, similar to the one recently held at WVDP, to tour the facility and to discuss DOE's understanding of foreign glass making activities.

In summary the staff stands ready to meet with DOE in any area where DOE has ongoing work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Joe Holonich of my staff. Mr. Holonich can be reached at (301) 492-3403 or FTS 492-3403.

Sincerely,

151

John J. Linehan, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada  
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV  
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV  
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV  
C. Gertz, DOE/Nevada  
K. Turner, GAO

DISTRIBUTION:

Central Files	R. E. Browning	B. J. Youngblood	J. Bunting
LSS	J. Linehan	R. Ballard	On-Site Reps
CNWRA	HLPD R/F	NMSS R/F	J. Holonich
LPDR	PDR	ACNW	

OFC :HLPD :HLPD : :  
NAME: JHolonich :JLinehan : :  
DATE: 01/11/90 : 01/11/90 : 01/ /90 : 01/ /90 : 01/ /90:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY