



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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John J. Linehan
Acting Branch Chief
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Silver Spring, MD

WM Record File

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WM Project 11

Docket No.

PDR ☒

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Distribution:

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In a recent management meeting with the NNWSI Project on June 12, 1986, you requested information on the timing for release of draft information chapters of the NNWSI Project SCP, release of the completed SCP and release of study plans. I have attached a preliminary schedule for the release of NNWSI Project draft information chapters and the complete SCP. As we discussed in the May 7-8 NRC/DOE meeting on "The Level of Detail for Site Characterization Plans and Study Plans" the purpose for the early release of the information draft Chapters is to aid your staff in preparing for the 90 day review period following release of the SCP. Although we are not requesting comments, I do ask that if you have major concerns, these concerns be provided to us as early as possible. It is our expectation that most technical concerns will be addressed during our rigorous internal review process. Any technical concerns that you raise during the formal 90-day comment period will be addressed formally.

During your June 12, 1986 management meeting with NNWSI Project you also requested that NRC be provided with all study plans at the time of the release of the SCP. As we have previously discussed during the May 7-8 NRC/DOE meeting on level of detail, DOE and NRC agreed that the release of study plans for investigations to be conducted throughout site characterization are neither warranted nor practicable at the time the SCP is issued since the number and types of future investigations will be dependent on the results of early surface based testing and exploratory shaft testing. It is for these reasons that we jointly agreed (summary May 7-8 meeting attachment 4, p. 1) that:

"The site characterization program will be described in the SCP, as required by the NWPA, and in semi-annual progress reports issued every six months during site characterization.... Although details of studies, tests, and analyses will not be presented in the SCP, they will be presented in study plans that will be referenced by semi-annual progress reports throughout site characterization."

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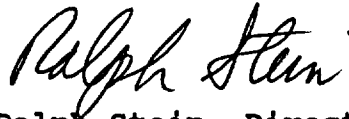
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In recognition of the need for the NRC to have a detailed understanding of activities to be conducted within one year of issuance of the SCP, NRC and DOE agreed in the meeting summary (May 7-8 meeting, Attachment 4, p.) that:

"It is the DOE's intention to provide study plans at the same time as the SCP for exploratory shaft studies and site characterization studies to be conducted within one year of the issuance of the SCP.... In cases where such study plans are not available at the same time as the SCP, a schedule for their completion will be provided in Section 8.5 of the SCP. While it is DOE's intention to provide, at the same time as the SCP, all studies that will begin within one year of the SCP issuance, it is possible that some of those study plans may not be available at that time. Any such study plans will be made available as soon as possible following SCP issuance and, in any case, will be available sufficiently in advance of the start of the study to allow for review. Furthermore, study plans for studies to be conducted beyond one year of SCP issuance will be available at least six months before the start of the study. The availability of these study plans will be indicated in the semi-annual progress reports that precede the studies by at least six months (refer to NRC Observation 6). NRC will notify DOE of major concerns in the study plans during the first three months of availability."

I believe that it is very important that DOE and NRC observe the protocols for the staged timing of release and interactions on study plans throughout the site characterization period. It is especially important to DOE that the NRC notify DOE of major concerns with study plans during the first three months of availability in order that the very tight schedules for site characterization are preserved. However, we believe that the rationale for individual study plans must be considered in the context of the overall strategy for site characterization to be provided in the SCP. In order to further aid in your preparation for review of the SCP and study plans, I have requested that the NNWSI Project provide me with a list of those study plans that will accompany the SCP. As soon as the list has been reviewed and discussed with the Project Office, DOE/HQ will transmit the list to NRC and States and Indian Tribes. The timing for interactions on specific study plans should be arranged directly with the NNWSI Project office.

If you have any questions on the attached schedules, please feel free to call me (252-5355) or Donald Alexander (252-1238) of my staff.



Ralph Stein, Director
Engineering and Geotechnology Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc: D. Vieth, NV
O. Olson, RL
J. Neff, CH
W. Purcell
D. Alexander
C. Hanlon
S. Grodin
M. Frei
A. Jelacic
J. Knight
R. Blaney
J. Nelson, Weston

Proposed Release Dates of Draft Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage
Investigations Project Site Characterization Plan
Chapters to the States and NRC

Chapter 1	Geology	October 17, 1986
Chapter 2	Geoengineering	July 25, 1986
Chapter 3	Hydrology	September 2, 1986
Chapter 4	Geochemistry	July 25, 1986
Chapter 5	Climate/Meteorology	July 25, 1986
Chapter 6	Repository Design	September 2, 1986
Chapter 7	Waste Package Design	October 17, 1986
Chapter 8	Plans for Site Characterization	October 17, 1986