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APR 07 1986

Dr. Donald L. Vieth
 Director
 Waste Management Project Office
 U. S. Department of Energy
 Nevada Operations Office
 P.O. Box 14100
 Las Vegas, NV 89114-4105

Dear Dr. Vieth:

I am in receipt of your March 19, 1986 letter to N. K. Stablein of my staff in which you propose a schedule for six technical meetings in the remainder of 1986 between the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI) Project and the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As you noted, we have discussed during the February 19-20, 1986 NNWSI Project - NRC Management Meeting the need for meetings in the six areas you identified.

With regard to the scheduling of those meetings, I am unable at this time to comply with your request to confirm the general timing proposed in your letter for two reasons:

1. The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the NRC are planning to have a generic meeting in Washington, D.C. within the next two months to agree on a detailed, systematic set of milestones for technical consultations and readiness reviews by NRC staff. This meeting will be followed by NRC interactions with the Projects to establish site-specific dates for meetings and readiness reviews. Until the generic meeting is held, the NRC is not in a position to establish meeting dates with any particular site.
2. Current information from DOE Headquarters (HQ) is that the Final Environmental Assessments (FEA's) will be released in late April. If this is the case, the NRC staff will be engaged in reviewing those documents during all of May and June and part of July. During the review period it is unlikely that the NRC staff will be available for NRC/DOE interactions. Hence, the Issues Hierarchy Meeting and Performance Allocation/Performance Assessment Meeting proposed for May and June respectively in your letter will probably have to be held at later dates than those proposed.

The NRC notes your observation that these six meetings may influence the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) and therefore need to be held prior to submittal of the SCP, currently scheduled for December, 1986. It is our intention to work with DOE HQ and the NNWSI project to schedule these meetings such that their influence is felt in the SCP.

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If you have any questions about this matter, please contact King Stablein (FTS 427-4611) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

John J. Linehan, Acting Chief
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Szymanski, DOE-WMPO/NV

OFC	: WMRP:mkb	: WMRP	:	:	:	:
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TO KStablein		ORIG. XX	CC WMP: XX	OTHER Dene 4/8
		ACTION NECESSARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE ANSWERED
		NO ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>	BY 4/10
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DESCRIPTION (Must Be Unclassified)		REFERRED TO	DATE	RECEIVED BY
Proposed Schedule of NNWSI and DOE Technical Meetings		JL Inehan	3/27	
ENCLOSURES		KStablein	3/28	
closed by letter to D. Viesh 4/7/86				
REMARKS				