



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

FEB 24 1982

*Trickett for  
Miller  
Jul 3/10*

Mr. John B. Martin, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. <sup>Jack</sup> Martin:

Your letter of January 22, 1982 notes the need for NRC and DOE to "reach early agreement on the (DOE) programs of site characterization and technical development . . ." and emphasizes how important it is to ". . . settle precicensing questions as early as possible." The Procedural Agreement we have with you has no mechanisms for "reaching agreement" and "settling questions." We also favor establishing such mechanisms. At our February 3, 1982 meeting, Mr. Hub Miller agreed to formally propose amendments to the Procedural Agreement to establish these mechanisms. We look forward to receiving this proposal and to developing a mutually acceptable agreement.

Your letter of January 22 also mentioned ". . . continuing direct interaction between cognizant NRC staff and the (DOE) field office" and that you expected DOE to ". . . formalize the arrangements for continued direct contact with the (DOE) field office." We are carefully considering your request and are investigating procedures we might use to decentralize certain of our interactions. In the interim, I am asking that arrangements for meetings and requests for copies of uncleared and draft documents continue to be made through DOE-HQ, and that telephone contacts with our field offices and contractors exclude discussion of policy matters. I am also reaffirming our position that requests made of our field offices or contractors that involve more than a nominal effort will require HQ approval. We will work through Mr. Hub Miller of your staff in arranging meetings as we have in the past. We would appreciate your working with Mr. Carl Newton of my staff.

Your suggestion to DOE to establish an organizational entity for geotechnical work similar to the Materials Characterization Center and Materials Review Board was addressed in our letter to you of February 9, 1982. We are in agreement with your suggestion and have started the process. We have been studying the functions to be performed by a "Geotechnical-Data-Review Board," which we feel should cover stratigraphy, geochemistry, hydrology, rock mechanics, and sealing materials. We plan to use this Board to aid in writing a national consensus standard on site-related geochemical parameters. We do not have all of the details worked out, but we expect NRC to be involved in the development of this national standard. We are gratified to see that NRC recognizes that establishing geotechnical parameters is a difficult process requiring professional experience and judgment and a process that is often not amenable to standardization or to precisely measured and controlled test procedures.

If you have questions on any of the points above, I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

*Wade*

W. Wade Ballard, Jr., Director  
Office of Waste Isolation  
Nuclear Waste Management  
and Fuel Cycle Programs  
Office of Nuclear Energy

|   |  |                                      |                                 |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FROM<br><b>DOE</b>  | DATE OF DOCUMENT<br><b>2/24/82</b>                   | DATE RECEIVED<br><b>3/1/82</b>       | NO.<br><b>WM-62-138</b>         |
|   | LTR.<br><b>XX</b>                                    | MEMO:                                | REPORT:<br><b>XX</b>            |
| TO:<br><b>JB Martin, WM</b>   | ORIG.:   | CC:                                  | OTHER:                          |
|   | ACTION NECESSARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CONCURRENCE <input type="checkbox"/> | DATE ANSWERED<br><b>3/11/82</b> |
|   | NO ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>         | COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>     | BY: <b>3/10/82</b>              |
| CLASSIF.:   | POST OFFICE  | FILE CODE:                           |                                 |
|   | REG. NO.:  | <b>3406.1.10</b>                     |                                 |
| DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)                                     | REFERRED TO  | DATE                                 | RECEIVED BY                     |
| <b>Agreement between DOE and NRC</b>                                    | <b>HJ Miller</b>                                     | <b>2/1</b>                           |                                 |
| ENCLOSURES:   |  |                                      |                                 |
| <b>Closed by <del>Wade</del> Wade Ballard on 3/11/82 from HJ Miller</b> |  |                                      |                                 |
| REMARKS   |  |                                      |                                 |

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MAIL CONTROL FORM

FORM NRC  
11-77 326

|   |  |  |                                      |                               |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FROM:<br><b>Franklin E. Coffman, DOE</b>  |  | DATE OF DOCUMENT<br><b>2/9/82</b>                    | DATE RECEIVED<br><b>2/11/82</b>      | NO.:<br><b>WM-82-099</b>      |
| TO:<br><b>John B. Martin, WM</b>  |  | LTR.<br><b>XX</b>                                    | MEMO:                                | REPORT:                       |
|   |  | ORIG.:   | CC:                                  | OTHER:                        |
|   |  | <b>XX</b>  |                                      |                               |
| CLASSIF.: POST OFFICE   |  | ACTION NECESSARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CONCURRENCE <input type="checkbox"/> | DATE ANSWERED: <b>2/25/82</b> |
| REG. NO:  |  | NO ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>         | COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>     | BY: <b>2/25</b>               |
| DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)   |  | FILE CODE:<br><b>3427.5.1 (FIN 87115)</b>            |                                      |                               |
| <b>Letter fm FCoffman re: Contract between RES and ASTM Committee on Soil and Rock Mechanics.</b> |  | REFERRED TO  | DATE                                 | RECEIVED BY                   |
|   |  | <b>HJMiller</b>                                      | <b>2/11</b>                          |                               |
| ENCLOSURES:   |  |  |                                      |                               |
| <b>Closed by Letter to Wade Ballard on 3/11/82 from HJMiller</b>                                  |  |  |                                      |                               |
|   |  |  |                                      |                               |
| REMARKS:  |  |  |                                      |                               |
|   |  |  |                                      |                               |