

WM-11/KS/85/08/05/0

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

Dear Dr. Vieth:

The NRC and NNWSI Project are scheduled to have an Exploratory Shaft Test Plan meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 16-17, 1985. As part of the process of developing a mutually satisfactory agenda, I am furnishing you with the NRC's objectives for the ESTP meeting.

The NRC's objectives are to assure that the NNWSI exploratory shaft test plans are adequate to:

1. Develop a technical rationale for in-situ testing that clearly establishes an appropriate relationship between issues to be resolved at NNWSI and the in-situ test data.
2. Allocate performance of engineered and natural barrier systems in developing details of the test plan.
3. Establish representativeness of tested volume of rock (including in-situ testing and surface based testing) to characterize the entire repository block.
4. Provide criteria to establish that the scope of testing is sufficient to support the submittal of a license application (10 CFR 60.31) (including waste retrievability requirements).
5. Identify if coupled/interactive tests will be performed, and provide a rationale for the decision.
6. Outline schedules and discuss how the planned tests can be performed within the scheduled time frame.
7. Describe procedures to analyze the test data and to integrate the results into the repository design.

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8. Establish necessary quality assurance for the testing program.

If you have any questions concerning these objectives, please contact King Stablein (FTS-427-4611) of my staff.

Sincerely,



John J. Linehan, Section Leader  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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