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# Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

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WM Project 11  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
PDR   
LPDR

  
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Division of Waste Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) OBJECTIVES FOR THE NRC/NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE INVESTIGATION (NNWSI) PROJECT MEETING ON UNSATURATED ZONE HYDROLOGY/ GEOCHEMISTRY

Your July 17, 1985 letter proposed five objectives for the subject meeting:

1. Establish a common understanding of current hydrological and geochemical knowledge and conceptualization of the unsaturated zone at Yucca Mountain.
2. Reach agreement on the technical concerns requiring more detailed hydrological and geochemical knowledge of the unsaturated zone for resolution.
3. Initiate discussions of kinds and amounts of data that are needed to get more detailed hydrological and geochemical knowledge of the unsaturated zone.
4. Initiate discussions of the methods by which such data might be gathered and analyzed.
5. Initiate discussions on the strategies for modeling the unsaturated zone, with respect to particular issues. One topic of special interest is how to model different flow regimes (matrix and fracture flow).

As requested, we have reviewed your proposed meeting objectives and have no objections. However, we request that you consider three additional objectives:

1. NRC's specific concerns with respect to the NNWSI Project's approach to characterization of the unsaturated zone hydrology and geochemistry;
2. NRC's position with respect to the NRC performance objective for a 1,000 year pre-waste emplacement groundwater travel time; and
3. NRC's position concerning future climatic changes and their role in constructing a cumulative complementary distribution function.

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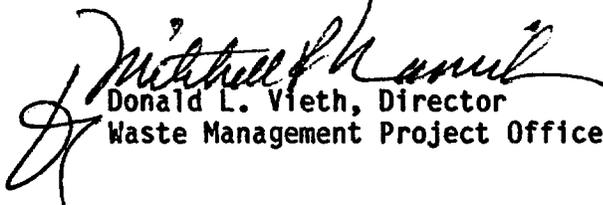
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AUG 27 1985

J. J. Linehan

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On a related matter, we suggest that the meeting be held in Las Vegas since this would appear to be a reasonable compromise for most of the meeting participants.

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

WMPO:JSS-1367

cc:

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