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MEMORANDUM FOR: R. S. Brown, Jr.
Assistant to the Director and Chief
Program Support Branch
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION TO TASK 6, CONTRACT
NO. NRC-02-81-037, ENTITLED, "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR REPOSITORY DESIGN" GOLDER ASSOCIATES, INC. (GAI)

This memo is to request that an RFPA be prepared to modify Task 6 of the subject contract as outlined in the attachment. Task 6, of the subject contract should be redirected to allow the contractor to participate, 1) in the review and analysis of documents associated with an SCP, 2) in the preparation of the NRC precicensing documents, and 3) in the meetings and workshops with DOE. It is also recommended that the Task 6 completion date be extended from July 15, 1983 to December 31, 1983. An additional \$150,000 has been reprogrammed for the Task 6 modification. The balance of the current Task 6 funds (estimated at \$13,000) will be used for the performance of present efforts not yet completed. If you have any questions regarding this RFPA, please contact Mr. L. Hartung, Project Officer, at x74646.

Original Signed by
Robert E. Browning

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management

WM Record File

B6983

WM Project 10, 11, 12

Docket No. 10

PDR 10

LPDR 10, 11, 12

Distribution: _____

*See previous concurrences

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

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ATTACHMENT

Background

Under the subject contract, Task 6 requires the contractor to "provide direct technical assistance in the form of attendance at meeting, site visits or the review of technical reports" associated with the performance of Tasks such as Task 2 "In Situ Test Programs Related to Design and Construction of HLW Deep Geologic Repositories." These efforts are related to the review and analysis of Site Characterization Plans (SCP) for DOE's Basalt (BWIP), Tuff (NTS) and Salt (NPO) projects. We request that this task be modified as follows:

"provide direct technical assistance in the form of participation in meetings, workshops, site visits, preparation of technical documents, review of technical reports (including NRC draft documents and DOE Site Characterization Plans) and other reports associated with In Situ Testing as directed by the NRC."

Statement of Work

The proposed work for Task 6 "Direct Technical Assistance to NRC Staff" will request the contractor, GAI, to review draft documents prepared by NRC and appropriate portions of SCP's associated with in situ testing, test facilities, Exploratory Shafts (ES) and accessing the test facilities as discussed in the completed tasks reports 1 through 5. The contractor would also be requested to prepare part or all of Site Technical Position documents (STP) appropriate to the HLW in situ testing. The estimated time proposed in this modification will allow the contractor to participate with the staff in preliminary meetings, workshops and document reviews leading up to the SCP review and analysis. The contractor will submit a letter report or other specified report to the NRC at the completion of each assigned project.

Justification

One of the primary objectives for the development of the subject contract was to identify the scope and nature of underground testing that could be undertaken by DOE during site characterization. The contract was also intended to review DOE Site Characterization Reports (SCR) now referred to as Site Characterization Plans (SCP). The NRC will have to evaluate key issues related to the underground testing and the engineered systems of the repository. In addition, the NRC will have to evaluate the site characterization program to establish that the in situ testing program will result in resolution of key issues associated with design and construction.

A Site Characterization Report (SCR) was submitted by DOE in November, 1982 for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) at Richland,

Washington. The NRC completed a review of the SCR and published comments as a Draft SCA in March 1983. In December 1982, the National Waste Policy Act (NWPA) was issued. The NWPA requires the DOE nominate five (5) sites (eg. basalt, tuff and 3 salt). These SCP's will be submitted to the NRC between mid 1983 and early 1984 beginning with an SCP for BWIP. Three (3) sites will be presented to the Secretary of Energy for characterization. The review of these documents will be accomplished as part of NRC's relicensing activities.

Task Reports 1 thru 5 completed by Golder Associates have been used by the NRC in the past and will continue to be used as key references in documents to support the NRC's technical analyses. GAI's Task 2 report "In Situ Test Programs Related to Design and Construction of High Level Nuclear Waste (HLW) Deep Geologic Repositories" is a specific example of a supporting document used in the review and analysis of the BWIP SCR and included as a key reference in the appendices of the Draft Site Characterization Analysis. This work is part of a planned systematic program to have technical assistance contractors and NRC staff continue to participate in workshops, meetings and to develop documents in preparation for SCP submittals by DOE.

The work to be done under the terms of this modification is a continuation of the work presently being performed by Golder Associates. This contractor is very familiar with the HLW program, in general and specifically with the data and analyses that have been established as the basis for reports and recommendations submitted to DOE reports. In order to maintain continuity in this work, a new RFPA for technical assistance for in situ testing has been approved for competitive bidding. This modification of Task 6 is therefore requested as an extension of the subject contract in order to meet HLW program needs until a new contract is in place and in operation. The realigned schedules for submittal of DOE Site Characterization Plans as presented by the NWPA and the time needed to place a new contract have necessitated this request for a \$150,000 modification.