

Distribution: WM-84025  
 WM File: 426.1  
 WMEG r/f 75693-1  
 NMSS r/f  
 REBrowning WM-10,11,16  
 MJBell  
 JTGreeves  
 DTiktinsky & r/f  
 HJMiller  
 JOBunting  
 MRKnapp  
 PSJustus  
 DRMattson  
 PDR ✓  
 LPDR (B, S, N)  
 SMNeuder

426.1/B-6934/DT/84/01/24/0

JAN 25 1984

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Mr. Earle Amey  
 Division of Minerals, Health  
 and Safety Technology  
 U.S. Bureau of Mines  
 2401 E. Street, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20241

Dear Mr. Amey:

We have received your November, 1983 monthly report for the project "State-of-the-Art Assessment of Large Diameter Horizontal Emplacement Holes" performed under the interagency agreement (NRC-02-80-075) between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Bureau of Mines (BOM). The following comments are presented:

Task 1

In the section on work completed to date, it is stated that tunnel boring machine appear to be the most viable option for boring straight large diameter holes (i.e. emplacement holes) but, then it is later stated that it is questionable whether the holes can be bored. Please elaborate on this point.

Task 2

It would be useful for NRC to receive preliminary drafts when they are completed.

Task 3 finding No. 1

It is stated that the most likely composition for the backfill is a mixture of bentonite and either crushed basalt or sand. Is this true in the case of a tuff repository?

We have no further comments at this time. The action taken by this letter is considered to be within the scope of the current interagency agreement (NRC-02-80-075). No changes to costs or delivery of contracted products are authorized. Please notify me immediately if you believe this letter would

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result in changes to costs or delivery of contracted products. I can be reached on (301) 427-4131.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By:**

David H. Tiktinsky  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Waste Management

cc: H. Nicholls, BOM  
E. Thimons, PRC, BOM

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