Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185

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'84 OCT -1 P3:55

September 25, 1984

WM-RES
WM Record File A1755 SNL
WM Project 10, 11, 16
Docket No.
PDR ✓
LPDR ✓ (B,N,S)
Distribution: Peshel
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dr. John Peshel
HLW Tech Development Branch
Div. of Waste Management
NMSS, U.S. NRC
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear John:

A program review meeting on the project coupled Thermal-Hydrological-Mechanical Assessments and Site Characterization Activities for Geologic Repositories (FIN A-1755) is being planned on October 15 and 16, 1984, at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque (SNLA). SNLA personnel from Division 6431 are also planning to visit the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site on October 17, 1984, to learn more about the underground workings and ongoing in-situ testing.

Division 6431 is heavily involved in activities related to high-level waste repositories. In particular, they provide technical assistance to the Engineering Branch of NRC's NMSS under FIN A-1755. This contract requires SNLA personnel to be familiar with in-situ testing activities. On October 15 and 16, the NRC program managers will be at Sandia reviewing present and FY-85 activities in this contract. It would be extremely beneficial for the NRC program managers, Drs. M. S. Nataraja and J. Peshel, to visit the underground facility and the experimental rooms at WIPP with the SNLA group the following day. The test configurations and the instrumentation for the WIPP in-site test will provide an unique opportunity to get a realistic perspective on underground testing as it relates to HLW repositories. Creep behavior and thermomechanical response are items of primary interest in the design and performance of salt repositories.

Therefore, we suggest that Dr. Nataraja and Dr. Peshel from the Engineering Branch of NMSS should participate in the WIPP visit. NRC would have to coordinate the WIPP site visit with Mr. Jeff Neff of DOE/ONWI and Mr. Dennis Krenz of DOE/AL.

Sincerely,

Nestor R. Ortiz

Dr. Nestor R. Ortiz
Nuclear Fuel Cycle Systems
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