VECTHURS MHSHINGION DC JOHN LINEHAN UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR BAFEGUARDS WASHWPTBBOKE POONTROL FROM April 295 NI986 O. MERR 86 JUL 11 Mr. James Knight Director, Licensing and Regulatory Division RW-24, Department of Energy Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Mr. Knight:

This will confirm the informal inquiry made by Dr. Jack Parry, ACRS Senior Fellow, as to the possibility of arranging for several members of the ACRS to visit the Nevada Operations Office (NVOO) and the waste management facilities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

As you are aware, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 mandated that the DOE develop repositories for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel and that the NRC review and comment on the DOE proposals in preparation for issuing a license to EOE for operation of a repository. The NRC will also have to issue a construction authorization for this facility. The ACRS will be involved in these activities as advisors to the NRC. In order to better understand the issues regarding the disposal of waste in tuff, the Subcommittee would like to visit the NTS test facilities and discuss related topics with cognizant staff personnel. Additionally, since the NRC will license a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facility, if it is requested by DOE and if Congress approves it, we would appreciate an opportunity to review the status of the testing at NTS in support of that work. A tunity to review the status of the testing at NTS in support of that work. A tentative list of topics to be explored is attached, as is a list of potential attendees.

Our present plans are for the group to arrive in Las Vegas from Albuquerque. New Mexico (following their visit to the WIPP site on July 30) the morning of July 31. I understand from Dr. Parry that it would be appropriate to have a briefing at the Nevada Operations Office (NVOO) on the afternoon of the 31st, with a tour of the several test sites at the NTS on the 1st of August.

Please advise us if this visit can be arranged as described above and of any arrangements we should make. Any questions on this visit should be addressed to Owen S. Merrill, Staff Engineer for the ACRS Waste Management Subcommittee, Mail Stop H-1016.

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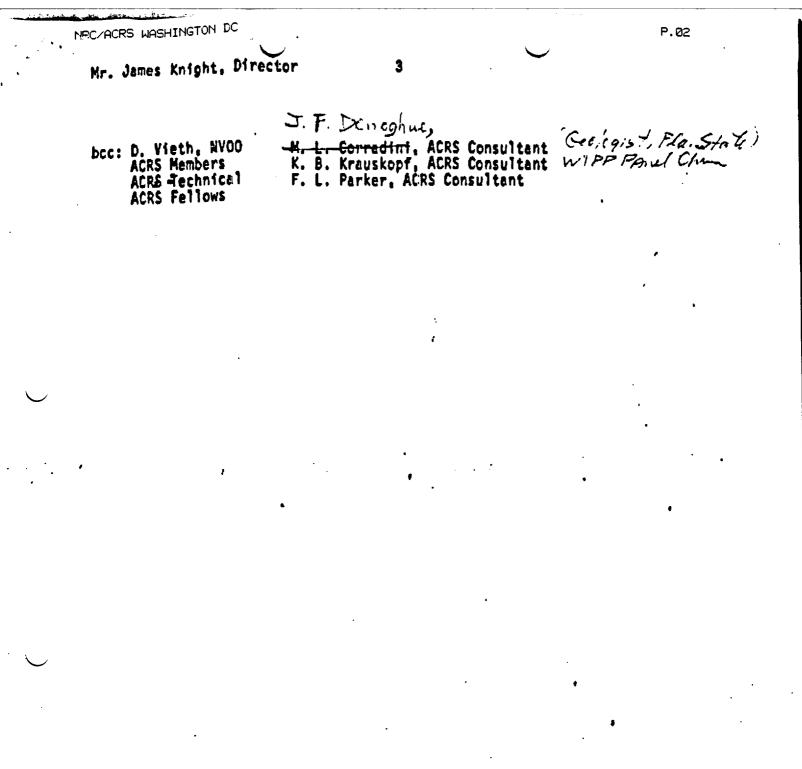
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Raymond F. Fraley Executive Director WM Record File

WM Project Docket No. PDR 1 LPDR

Attachment: As stated

> 8609180017 860423 PDR WASTE WM-11 PDR



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ATTACHMENT 1

POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT NTS

- 1. MRS test results
- 2. Expected corrosion processes in an unsaturated strata of tuff
- 3. Possibility and consequences of the site being saturated
- 4. Surface facility requirements
- 5. Subsurface facility/experimental requirements and exploration
- 6. Excavation and placement techniques
- 7. Contact and remote handling of wastes
- 8. Backfill and closure
- 9. Location and extent of neocene faults
- 10. High-level waste experiments
- 11. Plans for engineered barriers
- 12. Post-decommissioning controls
- 13. Details of models
- 14. Site characterization schedule/sequence

NRC/ACRS WASHINGTON DC

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ATTACHMENT 2

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D. W. Moeller	ACRS Subcommittee Chairman
M. W. Carbon	ACRS Member
-J. Ebersole	ACRS Member
	ACRS Member
F. J. Remick	ACRS Fember
P. G. Shewmon	ACRS Fember
	ACRS Hember
J.F. Donoghue - H. L. Corradiai	ACRS Consultant
K. B. Krauskopf	ACRS Consultant
0. S. Merrill	ACRS Staff
S. J. S. Parry	ACRS Sentor Fellow

UPDATED 7/11/86 O.S. Merrill

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