



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555
April 28, 1986

FROM
O. MERRILL
634-1423

'86 JUL 11 A4:20

TO: JOHN LINEHAN
74672

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 DOE 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 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.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Fraley
Raymond F. Fraley
Executive Director

Attachment:
As stated

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PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

WM Record File

102.2

WM Project 11

Docket No.

PDR

LPDR

Distribution:

Linehan

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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Original was not received

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Mr. James Knight, Director

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bcc: D. Vieth, NVOO
ACRS Members
ACRS Technical
ACRS Fellows

J. F. Deneghne,

~~M. L. Corradini~~, ACRS Consultant
K. B. Krauskopf, ACRS Consultant
F. L. Parker, ACRS Consultant

(Geologist, Fla. State)
WIPP Panel Chair

2074

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

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ATTACHMENT 2

POTENTIAL ATTENDEES

D. W. Moeller ACRS Subcommittee Chairman

M. W. Carbon ACRS Member

~~J. Ebersole ACRS Member~~

~~W. Kerr ACRS Member~~

F. J. Remick ACRS Member

P. G. Shewmon ACRS Member

~~G. Wylie ACRS Member~~

~~J.F. Donoghue~~
~~H. L. Corbett~~ ACRS Consultant

K. B. Krauskopf ACRS Consultant

O. S. Merrill ACRS Staff

S. J. S. Parry ACRS Senior Fellow

UPDATED 7/11/86 O.S. Merrill

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