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NOV 22 1985

426.1/D1020/OP/85/11/20/1

- 1 -

Dr. Roy E. Williams
 Williams and Associates, Inc.
 P.O. Box 48
 Viola, Idaho 83872

WM-RES
 WM Record File
 D1020
 WTA

WM Project 10,11,16
 Docket No. _____
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Distribution:

Dear Dr. Williams:

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

I have reviewed your Monthly Progress Report for October dated November 7, 1985. This report describes the status of Williams and Associates technical assistance under Contract No. NRC-02-85-008. Progress made to date under this contract is satisfactory. I have the following items for your consideration.

- Attached is a copy of a presentation given to the Office of Geologic Repositories by NNWSI. This outline presents an issue hierarchy approach to site characterization and regulatory compliance. While this issue hierarchy was prepared for NNWSI, it could be applied to all other sites with only a few modifications. It is my understanding that NNWSI has recommended such to DOE OGR. Based on discussions with King Stablein (WMRP), the Projects Branch is considering whether to support this issues hierarchy in lieu of our draft issue hierarchy so as to achieve a common set of issues between NRC and DOE. Given that under Subtasks N.1, you are re-familiarizing the teams with the NRC issues, I request that you and your staff become familiar with the NNWSI issue hierarchy and provide me with comments on the completeness, and possibly correctness, of their approach. I also suggest a quick look at the DOE Mission Plan. I believe the general form of the hierarchy is presented there (key issues). I suggest that preparation of a letter report with your comments begin after the site familiarization tasks are complete. Please complete this review by February 7, 1986.
- Attached for your information is a copy of the OCRWM bulletin. This bulletin is informative about the national HLW program. I suggest you contact OCRWM about getting on their mailing list. Addresses are provided in the bulletin.
- Attached is the latest copy of the NRC/DOE meetings list.

Relative to ongoing work, I have the following comments:

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Task 1 - NNWSI

Subtask 1.1

I note that recommendations for the addition, deletion, and/or modification of the issues are being developed. The NNWSI issues hierarchy may be helpful in this regard. Please remember that changes are not "required" but only to be recommended if appropriate.

Subtask 1.2

Your reviews of USGS WRI 85-4066 and USGS OFR 84-142 were received. I get the impression that data are not presented in a format which allow an independent analysis. There are points we need to discuss. 1. Are you prepared to attempt an independent analysis of the hydraulic tests and are you recommending such? 2. Follow-up to DOE getting the USGS to present the data in a useable format and 3. What are the data and format we require? I will phone you on these points.

I have forwarded information about the NNWSI Exploratory Shaft to you under separate cover. This information coupled with the Draft Exploratory Shaft Test Plan (not yet available) will need to be reviewed prior to any NRC-DOE meeting on the ESTP. This meeting is not yet scheduled but we certainly will be expected to participate.

Subtask 1.3

As efforts under this subtask (and parallel subtasks) gain momentum, I will want a briefing paper on what the product is going to look like.

Task 2 - BWIP

Subtask 2.1

Refer to comment under Subtask 1.1.

Subtask 2.2

Your review of "Strategy and Preliminary Plans for Large-Scale Hydraulic Stress Testing of Selected Hydrogeologic Units at the RR1-2 Location" was received. Mr. Weber is handling this item should any response be required.

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I have forwarded a copy of the BWIP Exploratory Shaft Test Plan (BWI-TP-007) to you under separate cover. This is no "firm" date for the NRC/DOE BWIP ESTP meeting yet but we certainly will be expected to participate.

Subtask 2.3

Refer to comment under Subtask 1.2.

Task 3 - SRPO

Subtask 3.1

Refer to comment under Subtask 1.1.

Subtask 3.2

I notice that a meeting on the Salt ESTP is anticipated for the future. At this time, I do not know the relevance of any in situ tests to hydrogeology or the level of our involvement in the ESTP. I have tasked Mr. Ross to investigate this area and provide any relevant information to you.

Subtask 3.3

Refer to comment under Subtask 1.2

Task 4

Not initiated.

Task 5

I have forwarded copies of the Generic Technical Positions on the Disturbed Zone and Travel Time for comment. Because these documents will be released for public comment very early in January, there isn't much time for an in depth review. Keep in mind that additional comments can be provided during the public comment period.

As you are aware, the level of support the hydrology teams are providing to other technical groups is on the increase. That is the nature of our multi-disciplined profession. However, I did not appreciate fully the level of our involvement in the Exploratory Shaft Design and subsequent performance analyses. I anticipate scheduling problems over the next few

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