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Hydrogeology • Mineral Resources Waste Management • Geological Engineering • Mine Hydrology

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Communication No. 156

Mr. Jeff Pohle
Division of Waste Management
Mail Stop 623-SS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: BWIP

Dear Jeff:

I have enclosed a print-out of the culled data set we are using on the statistical analysis of chemical data. This data set contains those data from locations northeast and east of the Hanford site which have been identified for source geologic unit by the U.S. Geological Survey. The on-site data set is essentially identical to that data set used in our last evaluation of on-site data.

Please call if you have any questions regarding this data set.

Sincerely,



Gerry V. Winter

GVW:s1

88134359

NM Project: NM-10, 11, 16

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NM Record File: D-1020

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Committee OKs bill that could delay choosing of nuke dump site

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House subcommittee Tuesday approved legislation creating an independent commission to review federal efforts to find a site for the nation's first high-level radioactive waste dump.

The action was praised by two Northwest congressmen who have been highly critical of the Department of Energy's waste disposal program, and a DOE spokeswoman said the bill could delay final selection of a site.

The measure, which may be considered by the full House Interior Committee as early as next week, would give a three-member commission 12 months to review DOE's nuclear waste program and recommend any changes to Congress.

Congress would then have six months to act on the recommendations or the Energy Department could continue with its

present program towards building a permanent repository for highly radioactive wastes.

"The bill passed by the subcommittee is a step in the right direction to get our nation's nuclear waste policy back on track," said Rep. Al Swift, D-Wash.

Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said "it looks as though the Interior Committee has seen the wisdom of reviewing the department's site characterization activities fully and completely."

The bill specifically prohibits the Energy Department from sinking expensive exploratory shafts at the three sites already picked for further study.

"This could cause some delays in the program," DOE spokeswoman Ginger King said. "But there are a lot of 'ifs' and 'ands' involved."

King said it would be at least a year before the department is ready to start sinking test shafts

at the Hanford nuclear reservation in central Washington and sites in Texas and Nevada.

"We hope additional amendments will allow us to continue the program at a reasonable pace," she said.

The measure, described as a "mid-course correction" in the siting process by Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., was a response to criticism of the Energy Department's efforts to date.

Udall chairs the subcommittee on energy and the environment as well as the full Interior Committee.

Critics have said the three finalists for the repository site were picked more for political reasons than scientific ones.

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