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August 15, 1995

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MEMORANDUM TO: Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
HLUR/DWM/NMSS

FROM: Michael J. Bell, Chief
ENGB/DWM/NMSS KIM for MJB

SUBJECT: WESTERN NUCLEAR SPLIT ROCK AMENDMENT REQUEST

In accordance with your recent request, we have reviewed a request by Western Nuclear Incorporated (WNI) to modify existing rock durability and gradation testing procedures. Based on that review, we conclude that the license amendments proposed by WNI are acceptable. A technical evaluation documenting our conclusions is attached.

This review was performed by Ted Johnson. If you have any questions, he may be reached at 415-6658.

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TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF AMENDMENT REQUESTS

On July 14, 1995, Western Nuclear Incorporated (WNI) submitted a request to modify rock durability and gradation testing requirements. WNI proposes to: (1) decrease the frequency of durability testing; and (2) clarify gradation testing requirements.

1. Durability Testing

Current specifications require that durability tests be performed on each type of rock for every 10,000 cubic yards of material produced. WNI proposes that the frequency of testing be modified to require testing for every 20,000 cubic yards of material produced.

WNI provided information to demonstrate that the rock is a consistently high-quality material, as indicated by high and relatively uniform durability test scores. WNI provided a summary of rock test scores that were completed in 1994 and 1995. The scores ranged from 84 to 93, with an average score of 88.3, indicating that the rock is high quality and is relatively uniform. Further, WNI provided maps to show that all of the rock is produced from the same general quarry area, and indicated that any future rock will be quarried from this same area.

Based on the uniformity of past test scores and WNI's commitment to use the same quarry area, NRC staff concludes that durability can be done on a less frequent basis. One test for every 20,000 cubic yards of material produced is adequate to ensure consistent rock quality.

2. Gradation Testing

Current specifications require that gradation testing be performed for every 10,000 cubic yards of material placed. WNI proposes that a simple change be made to the specification to require testing for every 10,000 yards of material produced.

Based on our evaluation of the request, staff concludes that WNI is correct in stating that the intent of this type of specification is to perform durability testing as the material is produced, prior to placement. Therefore, WNI's proposed change to the wording of the specification is acceptable.