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MEMORANDUM FOR: John T. Greeves, Section Leader  
Mining, Geoengineering, Facility  
Design Section  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Waste Management

FROM: David J. Brooks  
Geochemistry Section  
Geotechnical Branch  
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF WASTE PACKAGE ISSUES STP's FOR NNWSI/NTS AND  
RHO/BWIP

As requested by your memorandum dated June 21, 1984, the subject documents have been reviewed. My comments are as follows:

The scope and purpose of these "issues" STPs is to provide DOE NNWSI/NTS and RHO/BWIP with a list of waste package issues that establish the NRC position on the essential technical questions that are relevant to waste form and package performance at the tuff and basalt sites respectively. The STPs accomplish their purpose. However, there is one point concerning standardization of format. In general, there is an attempt within the Division, to standardize the format of all of the STPs being developed by the different Branches/Sections. While there is some leeway in the guidance given, it would be expected that STPs developed within a section would have the same format, especially if the documents are essentially dealing with the same issues. In the case of the two documents reviewed, they contain similar material but each was developed using a slightly different format. Consideration should be given to standardizing the development of these documents prior to finalizing them.

One final point. The Geochemistry Section is responsible for providing the Waste Package Section with an accurate representation of the environmental parameters that are expected to envelop the waste package through time. The Waste Package Section must provide to the Geochemistry Section, the radionuclide/waste package source term chemistry that will enter the waste package/nearfield geochemical environment. As distinct as these applied science and engineering responsibilities appear to be, changing geochemical conditions cannot be divorced from waste packages performance issues and vice-versa. Some overlap between Section activities is apparent in the treatment of waste package issues A, C, and D and specific issues 1, 2, 3, 9,

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11, 12, 13, 17, 21, 26, and 27, as expressed in the BWIPs STP, but as they relate to the similar issues presented in the NTS document as well. The Geochemistry Section is prepared to coordinate activities and interface information as needed.

I hope that these comments prove useful to you in proceeding to finalize these reports. I will be happy to discuss these comments with you at any time.

Sincerely,

David J. Brooks  
Geochemistry Section  
Geotechnical Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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