



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

APR 03 1987

INFORMATION ROUTING ONLY

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Mr. Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This is to notify you that the Department of Energy (DOE) has initiated revision of the Project Decision Schedule (DOE/RW-0067) that was issued in March 1986. As required by Section 114(e) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, the Project Decision Schedule is to be updated, as appropriate, in cooperation with all affected Federal agencies.

The Project Decision Schedule identifies the key activities, decision points and deadlines for Federal agency actions that are essential to attaining the operation of a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of high-level nuclear waste. The NWPA requires that an affected Federal agency submit a report to the Secretary of Energy and to the Congress should the agency determine that it cannot comply with a deadline in the Project Decision Schedule, giving the reason why the agency could not reach an agreement with the Secretary.

As you may be aware, DOE has prepared a Draft Mission Plan Amendment that has been submitted to your agency and other appropriate Federal agencies, and States and affected Indian Tribes for review and comment. The Draft Mission Plan Amendment proposes a revised schedule for the first repository (to begin operation in 2003 instead of 1998) and a postponement of site-specific work for the second repository.

DOE expects to submit the Mission Plan Amendment to Congress in the summer of 1987. As an affected agency under the NWPA, you should be aware that the milestone dates in the Draft Mission Plan Amendment vary from those in the original Mission Plan and, if implemented, will require appropriate revision of the Project Decision Schedule. Regardless of the actions taken on the Draft Mission Plan Amendment, near-term DOE milestones (thru 1987) in

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the 1986 Project Decision Schedule have proven to be unattainable. Therefore, deadlines contained within the March 1986 Project Decision Schedule requiring action by affected Federal agencies are no longer applicable. We anticipate providing you with a revised Project Decision Schedule in the near future for your review and comment.

Your continued cooperation in meeting the intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ben C. Rusche, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc: M. Kearney
N. Numark