

AUG 10 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert Browning, Director  
 Division of Waste Management

FROM: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
 Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION SECTION OF HLW  
 CANDIDATE SITE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

FC and WM staffs met on July 27, and August 7, 1984 to discuss the FC role in reviewing the transportation related sections of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the sites being proposed by DOE for a high-level waste repository. WM staff requested that we determine which transportation sections we would review and whether the expertise necessary for our review was available.

After reviewing the transportation sections of one of the salt-site environmental assessments (Richton Dome), we have concluded that the appropriate scope of our review is the radiological and non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the transport of radioactive materials to the repository. We consider transportation of non-radioactive materials associated with site characterization, construction and other pre-operational activities to be beyond the scope of our review.

We believe that we have the necessary "in house" expertise for carrying out the reviews, but believe it would be beneficial for Norman Eisenberg of RES to assist us. We would appreciate WM arranging for Mr. Eisenberg to assist us on a part-time basis in this endeavor. We estimate that we would require his services for a maximum of 20 hours a week during the review period.

As a final matter, our review of the Richton Dome assessment indicates that DOE's contractors rely heavily on computer models to assess radiological consequences of high-level waste transportation. We find that the degree of explanation and documentation concerning the conceptual basis, assumptions, and source and accuracy of input data for the models are inadequate. To preclude this situation from interfering with the EA review process, we recommend that WM arrange as soon as possible for DOE to brief us on the workings of the

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transportation models and the data used to run them. In any event, we need the briefing prior to initiation of NRC's EA review period. We do not seek possession of the models themselves, nor do we desire to run their models on our computers. Rather we require a full and complete explanation of the models, and adequate documentation to confirm the models are valid, the input data appropriate, and the results acceptable. Mr. Eisenberg should be made available to attend the briefing.

Mr. John Cook is our point of contact regarding the EA reviews and can be reached on extension 427-9018.

Original Signed by  
Richard E. Cunningham

Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety.

cc: Mr. Cook

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