

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 8 & 9, 1987 BRIEFING
ON THE DOE ISSUE HIERARCHY AND ISSUE RESOLUTION STRATEGY

Background:

On March 3, 1987, the DOE presented the issues hierarchy and issue resolution strategy that will be included in the Site Characterization Plans (SCP's). At the request of the NRC and others, DOE agreed to repeat the presentations because the strategy is the key to understanding the site characterization program.

Objectives:

The primary objective of the briefing was to provide the NRC, States, Indian Tribes, and other participants, with an understanding of DOE's issues hierarchy and issue resolution strategy in order to facilitate the review of the SCP and to aid the NRC staff in developing the SCP review plans. The repeat briefing was enhanced using examples from Chapter 8 of the NNWSI SCP to show how the strategy is implemented. In addition, the briefing provided the opportunity for the participants to ask questions for clarification and to discuss sections of the SCP provided during the briefing.

Agenda and Participants:

The agenda is included as attachment 1. The list of participants is included as attachment 2.

DOE Presentation:

The viewgraphs used by DOE are included as attachment 3.

The SCPs are to be released concurrently for the three projects in January 1988 as consultation drafts, to allow interactions with the NRC, States and Indian Tribes prior to formal issuance of the SCPs. This process was briefly discussed.

The DOE presentation continued with :

- a brief summary of previous meetings on issues hierarchy and issue resolution strategy
- the overall structure of the SCPs
- the major sections of Part B (Chapter 8)
- the issues hierarchy as described in DOE/RW-0101, Issues Hierarchy for a Mined Geologic Disposal System (OGR/B-10)
- the 12-step issue resolution strategy and the use of the performance allocation process.

Three examples of the issue resolution strategy were taken from the NNWSI SCP (issues 1.1,1.5 and 4.4) and discussed in detail.

Following the DOE presentations, draft copies of the latest version of the NNWSI SCP were made available for the participants to study.

NRC Comments:

Based on the review of DOE's pre-briefing materials and the viewgraphs presented during the briefing, the NRC staff identified no fatal flaws in the issue hierarchy, issue resolution strategy and performance allocation approach at the broad level contained in those materials. The NRC staff has concerns in the following areas:

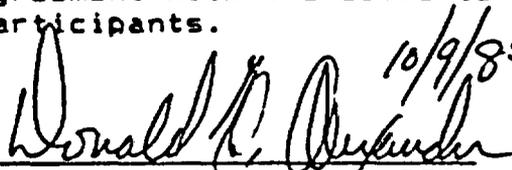
- * Descriptions of the process and technical rational used in developing the licensing strategies especially as it is applied in going from the issues to the identification of performance measures. Specifically, the questions, the alternative conceptual models and the scenarios considered in identifying and determining performance measures and information needs.
- * The process for revising the licensing strategy, including explicit identification of decision points for evaluating performance goals against test data.
- * The identification in the SCP of the anticipated qualification of existing data relative to establishing the contribution that the existing data makes toward resolving issues.

The NRC does not expect feedback from DOE on the above concerns, t t will be focusing on these and other areas in the SCP review. Before final conclusions can be made regarding the issues hierarchy, issue resolution strategy and performance allocation, the staff will need to evaluate the specific implementation at the site level during the SCP review.

The only action item resulting from this meeting was that DOE will provide NRC with a copy of the current draft Chapter 8 of the Yucca Mountain SCP. No other specific action or open items resulted from the briefing or the discussion of these topics. If, after further consideration of the pre-briefing materials and presentations and discussions that took place at the briefing, the NRC determines follow up action is needed in these or other areas, the NRC will send the DOE a letter expressing those concerns and proposing appropriate followup activities related to those concerns.

Acknowledgement:

The undersigned agree that this summary is a fair representation of the meeting. The signatures below do not necessarily indicate agreement with the comments or views expressed by other participants.

10/9/87

Donald H. Alexander, DOE


Robert L. Johnson, NRC *10/9/87*

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