

November 21, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Norman A. Eisenberg, Section Leader  
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Performance Assessment and Hydrology Branch, DWM

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
PRESENTATION TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF

On November 13, 1995, Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff were briefed by Dr. John Kessler, of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), on EPRI-sponsored activities conducted on behalf of the Reference Biosphere Working Group of BIOMOV5. BIOMOV5, the BIOSphere Model Validation Study, is an international cooperative effort that compares those dose assessment models used to evaluate the behavior of nuclear waste repositories. In addition to DWM staff, staff from the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were on hand for the presentation. The U.S. Department of Energy, the State of Nevada, and affected-units-of-local government were invited but did not attend.

The first area the staff were briefed on was a preliminary draft report (Attachment 1) summarizing international experiences in defining critical groups for dose and risk assessments; this work was prepared by INTERA-ECL (England) for EPRI. (Attachments 2 and 3 correspond, respectively, to input from Nagra (Switzerland) and Nirex (England) to this report.) The staff were subsequently briefed on the proposed recommendations of the BIOMOV5-II Reference Biosphere Working Group on a standardized approach to defining critical groups (Attachment 4).

Next, the staff were briefed on EPRI-sponsored work to develop a proposed list of features, events, and processes that might be used in dose calculations specific to Yucca Mountain (Attachment 5). This work was also prepared by INTERA-ECL.

The last subject the staff was briefed on were EPRI's views on the new potential regulatory standards for Yucca Mountain (e.g., National Academy of Sciences, HR 1020, 40 CFR Part 191) (Attachment 6). This material had been presented earlier to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board on October 17, 1995.

Attachments (6): As stated

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