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Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

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Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop SS-623
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (The Act) requires that the Department of Energy (DOE) prepare and submit to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review and comment, site characterization plans (SCPs) for each candidate repository site. Section 113(a) of The Act contains specific requirements for the content of these SCPs.

In addition, DOE has received guidance from NRC in the form of a regulatory guide (Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 4.17, "Standard Format and Content of Site Characterization Plans for High-Level Waste Geologic Repositories", dated September, 1984) and NRC staff technical positions relating to the SCP. After considering the requirements of The Act and NRC guidance, the DOE has prepared an annotated outline (AO) to be used by all of our repository projects as the standard format and content for the preparation of site-specific SCPs. A copy of the AO is attached in the form that each project for the first repository plans to use. In developing this outline the DOE followed the guidance of RG 4.17 as closely as possible. Although some modifications have been made for clarity and to facilitate the presentation of information, every effort has been made to ensure that the content and substantive requirements of RG 4.17 have been maintained.

The purpose of this letter is to transmit DOE's annotated outline for the preparation of its site characterization plans, and to request NRC's review and comments on the outline.

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