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MAY 29 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Greeves, Chief
Engineering Branch
Division of Waste Management (WMEG)

John Linehan, Acting Chief
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management (WMRP)

FROM: Harold E. Lefevre, Project Manager
Geology/Geophysics Section
Division of Waste Management (WMGT)

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE BWIP FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Draft Environmental Assessment Detailed Comments developed by the Repository Projects Branch (Comment No. 5-5), by the Engineering Branch (Comment Nos. 6-72 and 6-93) and by the Geotechnical Branch are addressed, in varying degrees, in a DOE report recently reviewed by WMGT. The reviewed report is entitled "Stratigraphy and Hydrocarbon Potential of the Northwestern Columbia Basin Based on Recent Drilling Activities", by N. P. Campbell (DOE Report Number BWI-TI-265, September, 1985). While conducting the forthcoming EA review, you may wish to consider using the documents appended to, and referenced in, this memorandum in addressing the above WMRP and WMEG comments.

The first portion (see Attachment 1) of WMGT's two-phase review phase consisted of a general review with appropriate comments developed by Bob Wright (consultant to LLNL). The second phase (see Attachment 2) consisted of a Geotechnical Branch critique of the DOE report (again with considerable assistance from Bob Wright) following the format designated by Waste Management Policy 11. For the convenience and utilization of the Waste Management staff, page 3 of the WMGT Document Review (Attachment 2) was developed and consists of a table relating the specific NRC Draft EA comment, by topic, to the relevant page(s) in the DOE report.

While the above DOE report concludes that the hydrocarbon potential of the Pasco Basin (within which the RRL is located) "is no more attractive as an exploration target than it was before deep drilling in 1980", William S. Lingley, Jr. of the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources is more optimistic. Mr. Lingley, in his February 19, 1986 critique of the same DOE report, cites (1) the paucity of exploratory drill holes, (2) the numerous geologic structures favorable for trapping hydrocarbons, and (3) the continuing interest (via new seismic traverse permits near the Hanford Reservation) as his bases for optimism in defining the hydrocarbon potential of the Pasco Basin.

WM Record File 101.5 WM Project 10
Docket No.

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Copies of the BWIP Columbia Basin hydrocarbon potential report and of Mr. Lingley's critique can be found in the DCC and in Harold Lefevre's office.

Harold E. Lefevre

Harold E. Lefevre, Project Manager
Geology/Geophysics Section
Division of Waste Management

Enclosure (2):
As Stated

JFC	: WMGT	<i>HL</i>	: WMGT	<i>HL</i>	:	:	:	:	:
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