

[7590-01]

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Hydrologic Testing Strategy for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project;  
Availability of Draft Technical Position**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the draft site technical position, "NRC BWIP Site Technical Position 1.1: Hydrologic Testing Strategy for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project."

A public comment period has been scheduled for 60 days following publication of this Notice of Availability.

**ADDRESS:** Copies of this document may be obtained free of charge upon written request to Nancy Still, Docket Control Center, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop 623-SS, Washington, DC 20555, (301) 427-4426.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hubert J. Miller, Chief, Repository Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Telephone No. (301) 427-4177.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-425) and Commission Regulation 10 CFR Part 60 promote interaction between Department of Energy (DOE) and NRC prior to submittal of a license application for a geologic repository. These interactions are to fully inform DOE about the level of information that must be provided in a license application so as to allow a licensing decision to be made by the NRC.

The principal mechanism for providing guidance to the DOE is completion by the NRC staff of Site Characterization Analyses (SCA's) which document staff reviews of DOE Site Characterization Plans (SCP's) submitted according to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and 10 CFR Part 60. Additional means have been developed to supplement the guidance provided in the SCA's. These include staff technical positions on both generic and site specific issues. Generic Technical Positions establish the staff's position on broad technical issues that would be applicable to any site. Site Technical Positions (STP's) establish the staff's position on a site specific technical issue. A number of STP's will be developed by the staff to establish lists of issues for sites being investigated by DOE in each of the technical areas that pertain to assessment of repository performance. Issues identified in these positions constitute what the staff considers are the technical questions that must be

addressed by DOE prior to licensing. Other STP's will describe tests or approaches for collecting or analyzing data that the staff finds acceptable to resolve a specific issue.

STP's will be issued in a manner intended to provide the NRC staff with the benefit of outside comment. At an appropriate stage in the development of each STP, notice of availability will be published in the Federal Register and copies will be placed in the Public Document Rooms (PDR's) and distributed to DOE, host states and potentially affected tribes for comment. Interested members of the general public will be able to obtain copies upon request and will be encouraged to comment. At the close of the comment period (normally 60 days), the staff will consider the comments received and issue a final position.

This announcement is the first such notice of availability on an STP and solicits comment on a draft STP, "NRC BWIP Site Technical Position 1.1: Hydrologic Testing Strategy for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project." In this STP, the NRC staff discusses a hydrologic testing strategy that is considered appropriate for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) now being conducted by the DOE at the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington. Guidance is provided to DOE on an approach that the NRC staff considers acceptable in determining the hydraulic data necessary and sufficient for complete site characterization. The staff considers that the guidance should provide an "envelope" of approaches broad enough to help guide the detailed decisions that

must be made in the future by DOE. Therefore, this draft technical position presents a progression of alternative testing scenarios that can be implemented at BWIP for the full range of feasible hydrologic conceptual models.

Dated at Silver Spring, Maryland, this 6th day of July, 1984.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



John J. Linehan, Section Chief  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards