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JUL 03 1984

O. L. Olson  
Project Manager  
Basalt Waste Isolation  
Project Office  
U. S. Department of Energy  
P. O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am writing about three follow-up matters arising from the June 12-13 meeting on the BWIP hydrologic characterization.

One. One agenda item for the meeting was discussion of the overall strategy for hydrologic testing. This included a comparison of the present strategy with that agreed upon at the July 11-15, 1983 meeting. Our preliminary comments on the present strategy are embraced within the June 14 summary meetings notes. However, there was too little time to fully assess the present strategy and evaluate it from the standpoint of collecting information needed for a license application. We are now at work on this and expect to prepare comments for delivery to you by early August.

Two. Another agenda item for the meeting was a discussion of matters contained in my letters to you dated November 4, 1983; March 2, 1984; March 9, 1984; April 6, 1984 and May 25, 1984, as well as plans by BWIP to deal with the comments contained therein. (Four of the referenced letters contain our comments on BWIP reports that deal with hydrology test methods; the May 25, 1984 letter deals with the reliability of hydrology test results). On the afternoon of June 13, James Mecca of your office advised the meeting that BWIP was not prepared to address the NRC letters. He proposed that "DOE will provide a plan and schedule for addressing the letters by July 1984." We look forward to receiving the plan and schedule.

Three. I draw your attention to NRC's needs for output from the BWIP/U.S. Geological Survey/Pacific Northwest Laboratory study of the regional flow system. In large part, this study is the outgrowth of the NRC suggestion at the January 12-13, 1983 meeting on hydrology. Our need for information is expressed in NRC comment number 9 in the June 14, 1983 meeting notes, which is quoted below.

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"9. Regional Flow System.

Because the BWIP Site Characterization Plan (SCP) is due for release in early 1985, it is necessary for NRC to complete preparation for its analysis of the SCP by that time. An important part of this preparation is the updating of NRC's groundwater modeling capability for the Pasco Basin. This makes it necessary for NRC to have in hand, no later than January 1, 1985, the regional flow system model (and data) under development by the "interagency hydrology working group". This regional information is essential to the Pasco Basin model, because it is used to set the boundary conditions. To permit its independent evaluation and interpretation of the basic data, it is necessary for NRC to have access to the complete data set used for modeling."

Would you please advise me, by August 1, about the status of your arrangements to transfer the information to us.

If you have any questions about this letter, please telephone me at FTS 427-4674.

Sincerely,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Robert J. Wright  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards

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