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APR 18 1983

Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Project Director
Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Mr. John G. Davis' letter to you dated March 31, 1983, forwarded the NRC staff's draft analysis of DOE's Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (NUREG-0960). For your information, enclosed are NRC's notices of availability regarding the draft analysis.

- Enclosure 1 - Cover letter to 10 congressional/state/tribal officials
- Enclosure 2 - Cover letter to "All Interested Parties" forwarded to NRC staff and contractors and DOE staff, and congressional/state/tribal officials who received SCR from DOE
- Enclosure 3 - Notice to "WH Code", an NRC standard distribution list of persons interested in the high-level waste management area
- Enclosure 4 - Notice as forwarded to Federal Register for publication

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Robert E. Browning

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES.

OFC	WMPI*	WMPI*	WMHT*	WMPI*	WM
	jb				REB
NAME	NStill:nls	DMattson	HJMiller	JOBunting	REBrowning
DATE	:83/04/18	: 4/15/83	: 4/15/83	: 4/15/83	: 4/18/83

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Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Project Director
Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Morgan:

For your information, enclosed are NRC's notices of availability regarding the Draft Site Characterization Analysis of DOE's Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (NUREG-0960):

- Enclosure 1 - Cover letter to 10 congressional/state/tribal officials
- Enclosure 2 - Cover letter to "All Interested Parties" forwarded to NRC staff and contractors and DOE staff, and congressional/state/tribal officials who received SCR from DOE
- Enclosure 3 - Notice to "WH Code", an NRC standard distribution list of persons interested in the high-level waste management area
- Enclosure 4 - Notice as forwarded to Federal Register for publication

Sincerely,

Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management

OFC	: WMPI	: WMPI	: WMHT	: WMPI	: WM	:	:
NAME	: NStill:nls	: DMattson	: HMiller	: JOBunting	: REBrowning	:	:
DATE	: 83/04/15	: 4/15/83	: 4/15/83	: 4/15/83	: 4/ /83	:	:



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 31 1983

The Honorable John Spellman
Governor of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Spellman:

On November 12, 1982, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the DOE's Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), a potential high-level waste repository site on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington. The BWIP SCR was submitted under the provisions of NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11. A copy of the SCR was forwarded to your office by my letter of November 15, 1982.

While NRC staff was analyzing the BWIP SCR, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, Public Law 97-425, was enacted into law. Under Section 113(b)(1) of that Act, DOE is required to submit to NRC, the host state, and any affected Indian tribe on whose reservation a candidate site is located for review and comment: (1) a general plan for site characterization activities to be conducted at such candidate site; (2) a description of the possible waste form or package; and (3) a conceptual repository design that takes into account likely site-specific requirements. The site characterization plan (SCP) required by the Act is similar, but not identical, to the SCR described in NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

We understand that DOE intends to submit to NRC later this year an SCP and related documents specified in the Act for BWIP. We also understand that these documents will supersede the November 1982 BWIP SCR and will provide information not included in the November 1982 BWIP SCR.

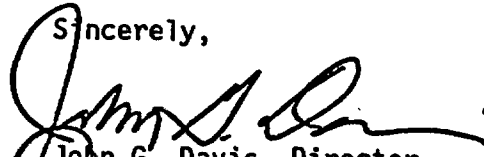
Upon receipt later this year, NRC will review the BWIP SCP. The NRC is also looking at the impact of the NWPA on NRC's procedural rule. However, pending any changes to NRC's procedural rule, we intend to provide NRC staff's draft analysis of the BWIP SCP for public review and comment prior to publication of a final analysis by NRC staff. Since the NRC staff has completed its review of the November 1982 BWIP SCR, we are publishing our draft analysis of that document now in order to provide DOE and all other interested parties with our views on the proposed site characterization program identified in the BWIP SCR. Accordingly, attached is a copy of the NRC staff's Draft Site Characterization Analysis (DSCA) (NUREG-0960) of the SCR.

MAR 31 1983

In addition to the DSCA, we have enclosed a copy of our letter to Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Project Director, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office, Department of Energy, which forwarded a copy of the DSCA (Enclosure 2). Enclosure 3 is a copy of our Federal Register Notice as submitted to the Federal Register regarding the availability of the DSCA.

If you should have any questions regarding this material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. NUREG-0960
2. Ltr to R. Morgan, DOE
3. Notice of Availability of DSCA
as submitted to Federal Register

LIST OF ADDRESSEES
FOR 3/31/83 LETTER FORWARDING BWIP-DSCA

Nicholas D. Lewis
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Mail Stop PY 11
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable H. A. Barney Goltz
Washington Senate
Senate President Pro Tem
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Victor G. Atiyeh
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Johnson Meninick
Tribal Chairman
Yakima Indian Nation
P. O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

The Honorable Gary Nelson
House Minority Leader
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jennette Hayner
Washington Senate
Senate Minority Leader
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable John Spellman
Governor of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Bill Sebero
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
of Benton County
Benton County Courthouse
P. O. Box 470
Prosser, WA 99350

The Honorable John V. Evans
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83720

The Honorable Wayne Ehlers
Washington House of Representatives
Speaker of the House
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 31 1983

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

On November 12, 1982, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the DOE's Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), a potential high-level waste repository site on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington, designated as NRC Project WM-10. The BWIP SCR was submitted under the provisions of NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

While NRC staff was analyzing the BWIP SCR, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, Public Law 97-425, was enacted into law. Under Section 113(b)(1) of that Act, DOE is required to submit to NRC, the host state, and any affected Indian tribe on whose reservation a candidate site is located for review and comment: (1) a general plan for site characterization activities to be conducted at such candidate site; (2) a description of the possible waste form or package; and (3) a conceptual repository design that takes into account likely site-specific requirements. The site characterization plan (SCP) required by the Act is similar, but not identical, to the SCR described in NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

We understand that DOE intends to submit to NRC later this year an SCP and related documents specified in the Act for BWIP. We also understand that these documents will supersede the November 1982 BWIP SCR and will provide information not included in the November 1982 BWIP SCR.

Upon receipt later this year, NRC will review the BWIP SCP. The NRC is also looking at the impact of the NWPA on NRC's procedural rule. However, pending any changes to NRC's procedural rule, we intend to provide NRC staff's draft analysis of the BWIP SCP for public review and comment prior to publication of a final analysis by NRC staff. Since the NRC staff has completed its review of the November 1982 BWIP SCR, we are publishing our draft analysis of that document now in order to provide DOE and all other interested parties with our views on the proposed site characterization program identified in the BWIP SCR. Accordingly, attached is a copy of the NRC staff's Draft Site Characterization Analysis (DSCA) (NUREG-0960) of the SCR. In addition, we have enclosed a copy of our letter to Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Project Director, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office, Department of Energy, which forwarded a copy of the DSCA.

Sincerely,

RE Browning
Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management

Enclosures:

1. NUREG-0960
2. Ltr to R. Morgan, DOE



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 31 1983

TO: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mailing List - WH Code
(High-Level Waste Management Reports)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published the Draft Site Characterization Analysis (DSCA) (NUREG-0960) of the U.S. Department of Energy's Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), a potential high-level waste repository site on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington, designated as NRC Project WM-10. The BWIP SCR was submitted under the provisions of NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

While NRC staff was analyzing the BWIP SCR, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, Public Law 97-425, was enacted into law. Under Section 113(b)(1) of that Act, DOE is required to submit to NRC, the host state, and any affected Indian tribe on whose reservation a candidate site is located for review and comment: (1) a general plan for site characterization activities to be conducted at such candidate site; (2) a description of the possible waste form or package; and (3) a conceptual repository design that takes into account likely site-specific requirements. The site characterization plan (SCP) required by the Act is similar, but not identical, to the SCR described in NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

We understand that DOE intends to submit to NRC later this year an SCP and related documents specified in the Act for BWIP. We also understand that these documents will supersede the November 1982 BWIP SCR and will provide information not included in the November 1982 BWIP SCR.

Upon receipt later this year, NRC will review the BWIP SCP. The NRC is also looking at the impact of the NWPA on NRC's procedural rule. However, pending any changes to NRC's procedural rule, we intend to provide NRC staff's draft analysis of the BWIP SCP for public review and comment prior to publication of a final analysis by NRC staff. Since the NRC staff has completed its review of the November 1982 BWIP SCR, we are publishing our draft analysis of that document now in order to provide DOE and all other interested parties with our views on the proposed site characterization program identified in the BWIP SCR.

A single copy of the DSCA (NUREG-0960) is available free upon written request to the extent of supply from the GPO Sales Program, Division of Technical Information and Document Control, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, (301)492-9530. The DSCA is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20555, and Local Public Document Room, Richland Public Library, Swift and Northgate Streets, Richland, Washington 99352.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Project WM-10
Notice of Availability -
Draft Site Characterization Analysis

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a Draft Site Characterization Analysis (DSCA) of the U.S. Department of Energy's Site Characterization Report for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project, a potential high-level waste repository site on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington.

ADDRESSES: A single copy of the DSCA (NUREG-0960) is available free upon written request to the extent of supply from the GPO Sales Program, Division of Technical Information and Document Control, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, (301)492-9530. The DSCA is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20555, and the Local Public Document Room, Richland Public Library, Swift and Northgate Streets, Richland, Washington 99352.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Acting Director, Division of Waste Management, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Telephone (301)427-4200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 12, 1982, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the DOE's Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), designated as NRC Project WM-10. The BWIP SCR was submitted under the provisions of NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

While NRC staff was analyzing the BWIP SCR, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, Public Law 97-425, was enacted into law. Under Section 113(b)(1) of that Act, DOE is required to submit to NRC, the host state, and any affected Indian tribe on whose reservation a candidate site is located for review and comment: (1) a general plan for site characterization activities to be conducted at such candidate site; (2) a description of the possible waste form or package; and (3) a conceptual repository design that takes into account likely site-specific requirements. The site characterization plan (SCP) required by the Act is similar, but not identical, to the SCR described in NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

We understand that DOE intends to submit to NRC later this year an SCP and related documents specified in the Act for BWIP. We also

understand that these documents will supersede the November 1982 BWIP SCR and will provide information not included in the November 1982 BWIP SCR.

Upon receipt later this year, NRC will review the BWIP SCP. The NRC is also looking at the impact of the NWPA on NRC's procedural rule. However, pending any changes to NRC's procedural rule, we intend to provide NRC staff's draft analysis of the BWIP SCP for public review and comment prior to publication of a final analysis by NRC staff. Since the NRC staff has completed its review of the November 1982 BWIP SCR, we are publishing our draft analysis of that document now in order to provide DOE and all other interested parties with our views on the proposed site characterization program identified in the BWIP SCR.

Dated at Silver Spring, Maryland, this 31st day of March 1983.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

RETBrowning
Robert E. Browning, Acting Director
Division of Waste Management