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WM Project WM-10

Docket No. _____

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Dr. Robert J. Wright
 Senior Technical Advisor
 High-Level Waste Technical
 Development Branch
 Division of Waste Management
 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Wright:

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF BWIP SCR (SCR-16)

Your memorandum to D. Squires dated March 30, 1983, quoted the following statement from the SCR:

"17.2.1 Overview

"Additional in situ testing may follow Phase II if the Hanford Site is chosen for a repository location. A detailed discussion of at-depth testing is not within the scope of this Site Characterization Report, since this testing is not part of the site suitability assessment."

The Question as quoted from the subject memorandum:

"What at-depth testing is not part of the site suitability assessment? During the June 1982 workshop, the NRC staff indicated that both Phase I and Phase II at-depth testing are considered to be part of site characterization."

Response

As noted by your question, we agree that all of Phase I and II testing are part of Site Characterization. The Phase I testing objective is to assess the constructibility of the exploratory shaft in basalt and to make a preliminary assessment of site suitability. The Phase II objective is to make a more detailed site suitability determination of the site in the candidate repository horizon.

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Dr. Robert J. Wright

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The at-depth testing referred to in the SCR is similar to that which is described in the NWPA for a TEF. Follow-on testing will occur only at the selected repository site. It is not required for site selection or to obtain a construction LA. The at-depth testing concept was pre-Act to allow for conduct of geotechnical design verification to support only final detailed repository design and construction. With the passage of the Act, the DOE anticipates this scope of testing to be part of the TEF test program.

If you have any questions covering this material, please call D. J. Squires of my staff.

Very truly yours,

D. J. Squires
for O. L. Olson, Project Manager
Basalt Waste Isolation Project Office

BWI:DJS

cc: M. W. Frei, DOE-HQ