



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JAN 6 1982

*Ticket for  
Miller  
due 1-22*

Mr. John B. Martin, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Martin:

During your telecon with Sheldon Meyers on December 7, 1981, you raised several issues which have been discussed with my staff and our field offices. I am writing this letter to apprise you of the work which we have underway in these areas and to propose some future interactions with you and your staff so we can discuss with you the work we have completed to date and our plans for the future.

First, we propose that representatives of DOE, Office of NWTs Integration, and Rockwell meet with representatives of NRC to review the hydrology at Hanford. In particular, we would like to present and review the bases for groundwater flow paths, direction of flow, and discharge points and receive NRC's comments on our hydrology program. In addition, we would like to present the data we now have and our future test program. A primary objective of the meeting is to resolve NRC comments on the near-term (i.e., pre-Site Characterization Report submittal) test plans, as well as reach agreement on our current planning for the longer range tests (which will be described in the Site Characterization Report). We propose this meeting take place at Hanford starting January 12, 1982.

In regard to another concern that you expressed, the stress ratio in basalt is already being addressed in our conceptual designs at Hanford. We plan to meet with you at a future date when the effort is more nearly completed to discuss the status of the design and our analysis of the stress.

We appreciate your views and recommendations on standardization. We have been and still are reviewing geotechnical data requirements for our program with the thought of establishing an overall approach on procedures. The diversity and complexity of conditions encountered in geologic and hydrologic studies make it necessary to carefully consider the selection of those procedures which can be standardized and those which need to remain flexible to enable adaption to an uncertain environment. We will discuss standardization of procedures with you further as our planning matures.

As you know, we are now appraising the current DOE-NRC interactions procedures set forth in the Procedural Agreement you and Colin Heath signed earlier this year. We think that several of the provisions have been beneficial to us both. The NRC positive comments on and input to the Materials Characterization Center and Materials Review Board, provided by Mike Bell of your staff, are one example. Other examples of benefits from our Procedural Agreement are the visits to various DOE laboratories we have arranged for your staff and to our project sites in the field for briefings. We are now working with Hub Miller of your staff in reviewing the Procedural Agreement to explore ways of improving

*NOT QUITE  
an  
ISSUE  
3*

B202240209 B20122  
PDR WASTE  
WM-10 PDR

00165

(W) || the interactions between DOE and NRC. In a broader sense, we are also working with our Richland Field Office to establish procedures for your staff to interact directly with the Field Office staff. We plan to have a proposed arrangement to discuss with you by the end of January 1982.

Please advise me if our proposed date for start of the meeting on January 12, 1982 is agreeable for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project hydrology review. We look forward to our continued interactions with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Franklin E. Coffman  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Waste Management  
and Fuel Cycle Programs  
Office of Nuclear Energy