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Mr. Richard Goranson, Project Manager
BWIP Project Office
U. S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

WM- 10
PDR
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Mr. Goranson:

Several times, during April, you and I have talked about information exchange between DOE and NRC, with respect to BWIP. The purpose of this letter is to express some thoughts on four related matters, with particular reference to the period from now to October 1, 1982.

During the exit interview with you and your associates on January 13, 1982, at the time of NRC's last visit to Richland, there was agreement on the usefulness of topical workshops. As we see it, such meetings, involving small groups of specialists discussing specific topics, is an effective way to identify future licensing issues and site characterization needs. Although we were given some tentative plans for such meetings, to start in late February, these have not materialized. You indicated to me that DOE now intends to revive this idea, and some preliminary discussions on this matter were held with DOE headquarters last Friday. A point paper, summarizing our ideas on the basic purpose and approach to these meetings (attached), was telefaxed to DOE the day before. We are inclined to attach first priority to the matter of Exploratory Shaft development and the type and scheduling of tests therein. This appears to be a critical path matter, significantly impacting the overall scope and schedule of site characterization.

At the time of the January visit to Richland, it was suggested that NRC might be included within the engineering release system of Rockwell, especially with respect to test results from the hydrologic testing, the exploratory shaft and the near-surface test facility. As we understand it, newly developed technical data are released through this mechanism within 45 days after acquisition. From our standpoint, this would help to satisfy the ever-increasing need for current information from the

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project. It also has the advantage of utilizing an existing, in-place system.

During one of our conversations, I mentioned two problems in the receipt of reports from BWIP. One is the wide range of NRC addressees. Over the years a number of distribution lists have evolved, some now out of date. For example, I find that some documents are sent to persons no longer connected with NRC's high level waste activities. The second problem is that too few copies are received of the reports, many of which attract wide interest on the part of NRC and its consultants. As agreed, to handle the distribution problem, I attach a standard distribution list which we wish to have implemented for future BWIP reports. To handle the number-of-copies problem, you agreed to investigate the possibility of sending NRC eight copies of each report.

Finally, we are in the last stage of preparing a draft list of repository siting and design issues, as we see them for the BWIP project. The intention is to flag now, as completely as can be done at this stage, the specific questions that will probably emerge as licensing matters when (if) the Hanford site is brought forward for a construction authorization application. As soon as the draft issue list is prepared I shall send copies to you for comment. The list is presented for discussion purposes, as a start in working toward a mutual understanding of future licensing issues. We think that the national program can be expedited by an early-on convergence of views on licensing questions.

May I hear from you, at your early convenience, on the above matters. We should soon discuss the nature and scheduling of topical meetings.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert J. Wright
Senior Technical Advisor
High-Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: R. Stein, DOE
C. Newton, DOE

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