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WMHT: 3104

Mr. David Squires  
US Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
PO Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Squires:

One of the primary concerns during the site characterization process is control of any adverse safety-related effects from site characterization. This is especially true regarding construction of shafts and underground facilities.

It is our understanding that the DOE is in the process of requesting proposals for a contractor to drill the exploratory shaft at the BWIP site. The planning for sealing this shaft will be one of the topics we will wish to discuss during the workshop on repository design. To prepare for that meeting, we request the BWIP project provide to NRC the appropriate set of design drawings and sealing specifications for construction of the shaft. This should include a description of the quality assurance program for the shaft construction and a discussion of any provisions to control any safety-related effects due to shaft construction.

Upon receipt of this information the NRC staff and consultants will review this information in preparation for the design workshop scheduled for late September (early October?).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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

cc: R. Stein, DOE

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