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June 17, 1981

Mr. Robert L. Johnson  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
High Level Waste Technical  
Development Branch  
Mail Stop 905SS  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Bob:

We understand that NRC may be contracting several research activities in the Palo Duro Basin. One contract would be with Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory to select a potential site and to examine possible problems for that site. The other contract would be with Sandia Laboratories to explore potential radioactive nuclide migration within the basin. If another or any research team in the Palo Duro Basin gave an impression of "siting" at this time it would create a substantial impediment to the program.

While we realize the responsibilities of NRC in this matter, it is important that you coordinate sensitive scientific programs with the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council (Mr. Edward Vetter, a member of the Council and the Governor's designated liaison with NRC), this Bureau, and to the extent possible, with DOE. Please let us know of any intentions in this area.

Sincerely yours,

E. G. Wermund  
Associate Director

EGW:dl

cc: Jeff Neff, DOE

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PDR WASTE  
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