



Department of Energy  
 National Waste Terminal  
 Storage Program Office  
 505 King Avenue  
 Columbus, Ohio 43201

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Return to 623-55

November 10, 1982

John B. Martin  
 Director  
 Division of Waste Management  
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Mail Station 905-SS  
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Martin:

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND DOE STAFF REGARDING INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ISSUE DISPOSITION FOR SALT SITES**

The National Waste Terminal Storage Program Office (NPO) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would like to establish an agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding information exchange and issue disposition for potential geologic repository sites in salt. Enclosed is a draft agreement for your consideration. This draft was patterned after the agreement adopted by the DOE Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) with the NRC. We feel it is particularly important to keep communications formal and look forward to your identifying to us a contact person on your staff for the salt sites. If you would like to have a meeting to discuss the draft agreement, I would appreciate your having your designated contact person for the salt sites call R. Wunderlich (FTS 976-5662) of my staff to coordinate the details and formalize such a meeting. We are writing to your management level due to our unfamiliarity with your internal organizational structure and request that you indicate to us who has signature authority concerning communications with NPO including signing of an agreement such as the enclosed draft agreement. For example, R. Wunderlich is NPO's coordinator with NRC, however, all correspondence to NRC from NPO will be signed by J. Neff. We look forward to clarifying the appropriate communication channels.

Sincerely,

*J. O. Neff*  
 J. O. Neff  
 Program Manager  
 NPTS Program Office

NPO:LAC:ds1

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**Enclosure: Draft Agreement Between NRC and DOE Staff Regarding Information Exchange and Issue Disposition for Potential Repository Sites in Salt**

**cc: W. Ballard, DOE-NE-22 - with enclosure  
C. George, DOE-NE- 22 - with enclosure**

**ST# 53-83**

AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND DOE STAFF REGARDING  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ISSUE DISPOSITION  
FOR POTENTIAL REPOSITORY SITES IN SALT

Authorized representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) through this document agree to a series of staff level meetings directed at exchanging information and resolving issues of apparent importance to the potential future licensing of a repository in salt. The nature of and conditions for the meetings are as follows:

1. NRC requests for the Battelle Office of Nuclear Waste Isolation (ONWI) Project information will be directed to J. Neff of the DOE at the National Waste Terminal Storage (NWTs) Program Office (DOE/NPO) with a cc to W. Wade Ballard and C. George of DOE-NE-22 rather than specific contractors. The DOE/NPO point of contact for information is R. Wunderlich, the Director of Engineering and Technology. DOE communications with the NRC shall be directed to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, of the NRC will serve as the coordinator for requests for information concerning the ONWI project.
2. DOE/NPO will identify topics and propose agenda/dates for meetings and workshops. NRC will respond to the DOE initiatives and suggest additional/ alternative topics and dates as appropriate to achieve an efficient and productive exchange.
3. Single-issue workshops on a 2-3 month frequency will be held to:
  - a. Allow detailed review of data and information gathered from investigations to date.
  - b. Allow consultation on potential issues, remaining information needs and plans for gathering the needed information and resolving issues.
4. An overview of ONWI project organization and SCR planning preparation will be presented in November 1982. Following the presentation, the schedule and scope of the single-issue workshops will be discussed.
5. A proposed agenda and list of NWTs attendees will be supplied by DOE/NPO to NRC a minimum of 20 working days prior to each meeting. NRC will provide comments to NPO on the agenda and a list of proposed NRC attendees a minimum of 10 working days prior to each meeting. Meeting discussions will be restricted to the topics delineated on the agreed to agenda.
6. NRC/NPO review/workshops should cover only data/information items that are relevant to salt sites. Information bearing on other NWTs projects will not be discussed.

7. Only cleared reports will be given to NRC . Routine transmittals of cleared ONWI Project reports will be made directly to NRC with a cc to NE-22 with enclosure. Any additional information may be formally requested by NRC. Requests for additional information will be a valuable indicator to NPO what information has yet to be documented and may influence priorities for documentation. The requested information can then be supplied once it has become documented in a referenceable fashion.
8. Meeting agreements and commitments will be incorporated into a formal written record of each workshop. The meeting agreements and commitments shall not take the form of findings or conclusions.
9. A continuing informal dialogue will be pursued between DOE and NRC management (e.g., Miller/Ballard/Neff) in order to identify and resolve potential issues/problems for salt sites.
10. This agreement may be renegotiated at any time and specifically will be reevaluated at the time of the first submittal of the SCR to the NRC.

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Jefferson O. Neff, DOE-NPO  
Program Manager  
NWS Program Office

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Critz H. George, DOE-HQ  
Team Leader  
Granite/Salt Project Team

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W. Wade Ballard, DOE-HQ  
Acting Director  
Division of Waste Repository  
Deployment

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J. Martin, NRC  
Director  
Division of Waste Management

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Hubert J. Miller, NRC  
Chief  
High Level Waste Technology  
Development Branch

## PROPOSED AGENDA

### For First Meeting Between NRC and DOE/NPO

The purpose of the meeting is to describe and discuss the DOE/NPO approach to salt site selection and characterization, SCR preparation plans, and the present program status. In addition to information exchange, DOE requests NRC provide feedback on DOE's SCR and characterization plans. The timing and mechanism for such feedback will be agreed to at the meeting.

Introduction by DOE  
Introduction by NRC  
ONWI project organization  
ONWI site selection overview  
ONWI SCR planning and logic network  
ONWI SCR preparation guide  
Transfer of Salt Site SCR Data Base to NRC  
Future single-issue workshops  
Summary by NRC  
Summary by DOE  
Adjourn