WM Record File 106

WM Project 16
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Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

MAY 27 1983

Mr. Robert Browning
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

Enclosed is a modification of our agreement with you concerning information exchange on salt. This version is identical to that signed by NRC on March 15, 1983, except a fourth sentence in Item 6 has been added. We understand that this is in accord with the NRC and DOE Legal Staff. As you are aware, the meeting referred to in Items 2 and 6 was held on April 19-20, 1983.

After NRC signature, please return four copies of the agreement to Jeff O. Neff, NWTS Program Office, 505 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201, and one copy to me.

Sincerely,

J. W. Bennett

J. William Bennett, Director
Geologic Repository Division
Nuclear Waste Policy Act
Project Office

Enclosure

cc: L. Chase, NRC (w/enclosure)

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND DOE REGARDING
INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND CONSULTATION ON
SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROGRAM
AND LICENSING INFORMATION NEEDS
FOR POTENTIAL REPOSITORY SITES IN SALT
PRIOR TO THE SUBMITTAL OF A LICENSE APPLICATION
FOR CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION FOR A REPOSITORY

Authorized representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) through this document agree to a series of meetings directed at consultation on the site characterization program and licensing information needs of importance to the potential future licensing of a repository in salt. The nature of and conditions for the meetings are as follows:

1. Workshops will be held to:

   a. Allow review and discussion 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 to resolve issues.

2. Workshops for the salt site(s) recommended for detailed site characterization will include the following topics: hydrogeology, geochemistry/waste package, design of surface and underground facilities, geology/stability, performance assessment, and quality assurance. A final slate and frequency of meetings will be established following a general DOE/NPO Program Review tentatively scheduled for April, 1983.

3. NRC written requests for information from the Battelle Office of Nuclear Waste Isolation (ONWI) will be directed to Jefferson O. Neff, Program Manager of the DOE's National Waste Terminal Storage (NWTS) Progrm Office (DOE/NPO), rather than specific contractors with a c.c. to J. W. Bennett, Director, Geologic Repository Division and C. H. George, Team Leader, Salt/Granite Project Team, both of DOE-NE-22. The DOE/NPO point of contact for information is Leslie Casey. Lawrence Chase, Program Manager - Salt Program, will serve as contact and NRC coordinator for DOE written requests for information from NRC. These requests will be directed to Dr. Chase at the NRC, High-Level Waste Technical Development Branch (WMHT), with a copy to Mr. Hubert J. Miller. The NRC point of contact for information requests is Robert L. Johnson (FTS 427-4676). With the experience gained from the workshop meetings and information exchanges, consideration will be given to identifying additional points of contact to assure a continuing and adequate exchange of information.

4. In consultation with the other party agency, the Host Agency will prepare an agenda and proposed list of attendees a minimum of 20 working days prior to each meeting. Comments concerning the agenda and the list of proposed attendees will be provided to the Host Agency a minimum of 10 working days prior to each meeting. The Host Agency will make available a finalized agenda a minimum of 5 working days prior to each meeting. Meeting discussions will be restricted to the topics delineated on the agreed agenda. Host Agency is defined as the agency requesting a meeting and/or workshop.

5. NRC/NPO reviews and workshops should cover only data/information items that are relevant to potential licensing of salt sites. Information bearing solely on other NWTS projects, or which require presence of representatives from other sites, will not be discussed.

6. NPO cleared and published reports will be given to NRC. Routine transmittals of NPO cleared and published reports will be made directly to NRC. Information made available to NRC from the clearance process, meetings, and workshops may be used by NRC staff to formulate comments and raise issues about salt sites. However, NRC will take into consideration the extent to which the data has been subject to appropriate DOE review. Any additional information needs will be a valuable indicator to NPO as to what potential information gaps exist and may influence priorities for documentation. The requested information will be supplied once it has become documented in a referenceable fashion. Within 60 days after the first information exchange meeting tentatively scheduled for April 1983, DOE will identify the individual steps in the clearance process where information, data and data analysis will be available to the NRC.

7. Meeting commitments and observations will be summarized within three weeks into a formal written record of each workshop signed by the DOE/NPO/NRC representatives to assure that there is a common understanding of what has transpired.

8. The signatories to the agreement shall establish a continuing dialogue to insure that the objectives of this agreement are fulfilled, as well as to raise any major potential technical licensing questions at an early time.

9. DOE/NPO and NRC will brief each other on budgets and scopes of work potentially relevant to licensing a repository once each year on an agreed upon basis.

10. Nothing in this agreement shall alter the responsibility of DOE/NPO and NRC to meet its own commitments for informing the public, States and Indian Tribes of ongoing and planned activities.

11. The terms of this agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent, in writing, and specifically will be reevaluated at the time of the first submittal of the first SCP to the NRC.

Mark W. Frei
for J. W. Bennett, DOE
Director
Geologic Repository Division

Date: May 18, 1983

Hubert J. Miller, NRC
Chief
High-Waste Technical
Development Branch

Date: _____

R C Wunderlich
for Jefferson O. Neff, DOE-NPO
Program Manager
NWTS Program Office

Date: May 3, 1983

Lawrence Chase, NRC
Program Manager
High-Level Waste Technical
Develpment Branch

Date: _____