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

January 11, 1983

Dr. Lawrence Chase
Salt Repository Project Manager, MS 461-SS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Chase:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND DOE STAFF REGARDING INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ISSUE DISPOSITION FOR POTENTIAL REPOSITORY SITES IN SALT PRIOR TO THE SUBMITTAL OF A LICENSE APPLICATION

I was very pleased to have lunch with you at the NWS Annual Information Meeting December 14-16, 1982 and learn of your recent appointment as the contact for our field office with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Although we did not have time to discuss your comments on the proposed agreement transmitted to NRC on November 10, 1982 we have redrafted the proposed agreement including most of your written comments. This revised proposed agreement is attached and is intended to facilitate and focus our further discussions.

It would be to our mutual benefit to expedite signing of an agreement and initiate information exchange in concert with the new waste management legislation. Please note that not all of your comments were incorporated in the attached draft. After reviewing the draft, we believe a conference call can resolve any outstanding issues. Please call L. Casey (FTS 976-5918) of my staff to arrange for such a conference call.

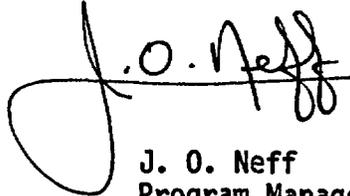
We are proceeding with preparations for a first information exchange meeting on the general subject of ONWI project organization and SCR planning and preparation. We will supply NRC a proposed agenda and list of NWS attendees soon after the agreement is signed and this will define a date of the first meeting in accordance with the fourth article of agreement (i.e. 20 days later). NPO intends to notify key state officials of the meetings.

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We look forward to our new interactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. O. Neff". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a horizontal line extending across the middle of the name.

J. O. Neff
Program Manager
NWS Program Office

NPO:LAC:ds1

Enclosure: 1/10/83 draft Agreement Between NRC and DOE staff Regarding Information Exchange and Issue Disposition for Potential Repository Sites in Salt Prior to the Submittal of a License Application For Construction Authorization for a Repository

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

ST# 116-83

AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND DOE STAFF REGARDING
INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ISSUE DISPOSITION
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 staff level meetings directed at exchanging information and resolving issues 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 on a minimum of a 2-3 month frequency will be held to:
 - a. Allow review and discussion of current 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.
2. NRC requests for information from the Battelle Office of Nuclear Waste Isolation (ONWI) and to contractors 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. Ballard and C. George of DOE-NE-22 rather than specific contractors. The DOE/NPO point of contact for information is L. Casey. DOE communications with the NRC shall be directed to L. Chase, of the NRC who will serve as the DOE contact and NRC coordinator for requests for information concerning the ONWI project.
3. DOE/NPO will identify topics and propose agenda/dates for meetings and workshops. NRC will suggest additional/alternative topics and dates as appropriate to achieve an efficient and productive exchange.
4. 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 DOE/NPO on the agenda and a list of proposed NRC attendees a minimum of 10 working days prior to each meeting. Therefore a finalized agenda will be available to both DOE and NRC a minimum of 5 days prior to each meeting. Meeting discussions will be restricted to the topics delineated on the agreed agenda.
5. NRC/NPO reviews/workshops should cover only data/information items that are relevant to salt sites. Information bearing on other NWTs projects will not be discussed unless agreed to by both parties prior to the reviews/workshops.

6. Only NPO cleared and published reports will be given to NRC . Routine transmittals of such reports will be made directly to NRC. 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.
7. Meeting commitments will be incorporated into a formal written record of each workshop signed by the DOE/NRC representatives to assure there is a common understanding of what has transpired. The meeting records shall not take the form of findings or conclusions.
8. A continuing informal dialogue will be pursued between DOE and NRC management in order to identify and resolve potential issues/problems for salt sites.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. DOE and NRC will each meet their own commitments for informing the states of ongoing and planned activities.

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

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

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