



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Dr. Robert J. Wright
Senior Technical Advisor
High Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Wright:

GUIDELINES FOR NRC INTERFACE

During your visit to Richland the week of July 11, guidelines for technical interface between NRC and DOE and designated contacts for information exchange were discussed. Enclosed is a list of designated BWIP communicators and guidelines for implementing their information exchange responsibilities. NRC's staff counterparts to the BWIP communicators were identified by you and attached to the Summary Meeting Notes - DOE/NRC Meeting on Hydrology Testing - Richland, Washington, July 11-15, 1983.

These contacts between the NRC and DOE/Rockwell staff will allow exchange of technical information and status of project activities. However, as indicated in the enclosed guidelines, official requests or exchange of information between NRC and DOE will continue to be handled by my office. If experience confirms the effectiveness of these arrangements, they should be incorporated in the procedural agreement between the NRC and BWIP.

If you have any questions covering this material, please contact Dave Squires of my staff.

Very truly yours,

O. L. Olson, Project Manager
Basalt Waste Isolation Project Office

BWI:DJS

Enclosure

cc. w/encl: M. W. Frei, DOE-HQ
R. A. Deju, Rockwell

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PDR WASTE
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**GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL INTERFACE BETWEEN THE
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION,
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE,
AND ROCKWELL HANFORD OPERATIONS
REGARDING THE BASALT WASTE ISOLATION PROJECT**

The purpose of these guidelines is to streamline the flow of technical information between the staff of the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) [both the Department of Energy (DOE) and Rockwell Hanford Operations (Rockwell)] and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. Timely, accurate, and efficient exchanges are of paramount importance in this process of pre-licensing consultation.

DESIGNATED COMMUNICATORS

The basis for the interface will be the following designated communicators in each main area of study. The communicators are knowledgeable experts in their fields and hold a current managerial position of at least group manager. With the exception of Quality Assurance, all designated communicators are Rockwell BWIP staff members.

Performance Assessment

R. T. Wilde (FTS 444-7207)
Manager, Systems Department

Repository Design

R. J. Gimera (FTS 444-8912)
Associate Director, BWIP

Quality Assurance

M. S. Karol (FTS 444-7306)
Manager, Quality Assurance
DOE-Richland Operations Office
G. J. Brecken (Alternate)
FTS 444-6579

Geology

S. M. Price (FTS 444-2421)
Manager, Geosciences Group

Geochemistry

P. F. Salter (FTS 444-4200)
Manager, Waste Package Design
and Geochemistry Group

Hydrogeology

G. S. Hunt (FTS 444-7981)
Manager, Site Department

Waste Package

M. J. Smith (FTS 440-3535)
Manager, Waste Package Department

Counterparts to each of the above BWIP communicators have been named from within the NRC staff. (Summary Meeting Notes - DOE/NRC Meeting on Hydrology Testing - Richland, Washington - July 11-15, 1983.)

AUTHORITY OF COMMUNICATORS

1. The BWIP communicators are authorized to accept telephone calls directly from their NRC counterpart communicator. Upon completion of the call a Telecon Report must be completed and filed.
 - a. If the NRC requests technical information which the BWIP communicator can provide during the initial call, he/she is authorized to do so.
 - b. If the NRC requests technical information which the BWIP communicator is unable to answer during the initial call, a date for providing the information should be agreed upon. The BWIP communicator is required to provide the information on or before the agreed upon date. If the information requires a transmittal, the transmittal will be by DOE.
 - c. The BWIP communicators are authorized to have open discussions on exchanged information.
2. The BWIP communicators are authorized to contact the NRC by telephone to status pertinent areas of the BWIP. Upon completion of the call a Telecon Report must be completed and filed.
3. BWIP communicators are not authorized to address NRC requests on issues outside their area of expertise but may contact the communicator in that area in responding to NRC inquiries.
4. Only technical information pertaining to BWIP may be discussed by the BWIP communicator. The NRC must contact the DOE directly with requests on policy matters, legal questions, tours and visits to BWIP, and other non-technical questions. Official correspondence to be transmitted by DOE.
5. Requests in writing from the NRC should be handled as they are currently. The NRC writes directly to DOE, and DOE responds to the request.
6. The BWIP communicators do not have the authority to make commitments on behalf of Rockwell or DOE other than to verbally respond to NRC inquiries.

DOCUMENTATION OF INTERFACE

1. The BWIP communicator shall, within two working days of any telephone conversation with NRC, complete a Telecon Report. The Telecon Report should be of sufficient detail to highlight issues discussed and information provided and should be typed. The originating BWIP communicator should sign the original and retain a copy. The following are to be on distribution to receive copies of the Telecon Report:

- Manager, Office of Licensing
- BWIP Director
- Originator's end function manager, if applicable
- DOE-Richland Operations Office, Basalt Waste Isolation Project Office
- Records Retention Center

2. In addition to writing the Telecon Report, the communicator is responsible to maintain copies of his/her Telecon Reports.
3. The Manager, Office of Licensing, is responsible to maintain copies of all Telecon Reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOE-RL

1. The DOE-RL is responsible for direct response to NRC requests pertaining to policy decisions, legal questions, tours of and visits to BWIP, and other technical and non-technical questions.
2. The DOE-RL is responsible for direct response to all NRC requests submitted in writing.
3. The DOE-RL is responsible for transmittal of all written information requested through designated communicators.