



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

SEP 10 1987

87-LES-150

Mr. Doug Clausing
Washington State Department of Ecology
3701 W. Washington
Yakima, WA 89803

Dear Mr. Clausing:

BASALT WASTE ISOLATION PROJECT TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMIT

This letter will respond to your letter, dated August 26, 1987, which responded to our letter, dated August 20, 1987, requesting the issuance of a temporary permit by August 31, 1987. You have responded indicating that due to personnel schedules, and the technical and legal issues involved, you will not be able to provide full consideration of our application within the requested time frame. You did not, however, indicate a time at which you would anticipate the issuance of a temporary water use permit, as we had requested. Furthermore, you did not request any additional technical information regarding the permit.

In further response to your question regarding a document entitled, the "Environmental Regulatory Compliance Plan" (ERCP), and its relevance to our request for the water permit and the temporary use permit, Mr. J. E. Mecca of my staff explained the following.

In a telephone conversation with you the week of August 24, 1987, Mr. J. E. Mecca committed to providing your office copies of the BWIP Environmental Reviews for Drill Holes DC-24 and 25 (BER's 004 and 005). These had previously been provided to the Nuclear Waste Board and to Mr. T. Husseman's office, and were provided to your office on August 28, 1987. These documents specify other regulatory constraints and permitting needs that DOE believes to be necessary to carry out the near-term activities regarding the drill holes in question. We did not commit to providing a draft of the ERCP. That document will be released concurrently to all affected parties under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act at a future date. The information contained in the BER's 004 and 005 is more than adequate for the purpose of evaluating our temporary use permit request.

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Mr. Doug Clausing

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With the information received on August 24, 1987, you should now have all the substantive information you require for processing our application for a temporary permit. It is my understanding that the issuance of a temporary permit is routine, especially regarding applications for large agricultural or industrial projects which pose similar complex issues to be resolved prior to the issuance of a final certificate. If the BWIP application is being processed in accordance with your usual and customary procedures, I would hope that a temporary permit can be issued not later than the week of September 14, 1987.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Mr. S. C. Whitfield on (509) 376-2048, or Mr. J. E. Mecca on (509) 376-5038.

Sincerely,



jez John H. Anttonen, Assistant Manager
for Commercial Nuclear Waste

BWI:JEM

cc: Correspondence Mailing List
Chairman, Nuclear Waste Board
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Attorney General

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