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Mr. W. J. Purcell  
Associate Director  
Office of Geologic Repositories  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management  
U. S. Department of Energy  
RW-20  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Purcell:

The purpose of the geologic repository prelicensing consultation and guidance program now being conducted by the NRC and DOE staffs is to fully inform the DOE about the type and amount of information that must be provided in a license application to allow a licensing decision to be made by the NRC. As one important mechanism in this process the staff has developed Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions (ISTPs) which identify issues the NRC staff considers must be addressed at the time of repository licensing. The purpose of this letter is to transmit these ISTPs to DOE and to describe their part in the prelicensing consultation program.

Enclosed are 10 copies each of the ISTPs for the following potential geologic repository sites:

- o Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP)
- o Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI)
- o Salt Repository Project (SRP)
  - Permian Basin Sites
  - Paradox Basin Sites
  - Gulf Coast Dome Sites

These ISTPs provide guidance on what the NRC staff considers to be issues that need to be addressed in an acceptable license application for a potential high-level waste geologic repository by presenting information needs (issues) and associated rationales. These issues and rationales were developed by a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the overall geologic repository and its components. The NRC has elected to develop guidance of this form and in this early period of the prelicensing process to provide a logical framework for addressing pertinent issues relating to site characterization and design development.

The ISTPs address site issues in the areas of geology/geophysics, waste package, geologic repository operations area design/rock mechanics, hydrology, and geochemistry. The issues in the ISTPs for geology/geophysics and hydrology are the same for all of the sites at a broad level but are different for the most specific level to account for different site characteristics. The ISTPs for the other technical areas are essentially the same for all the sites presently being considered, but contain minor differences reflecting differences in the media for each project.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

WM S/ 9108 JTGreaves  
WMRP 1012 PJustus  
NMSS r/f 102.2 RCook  
CF 106.3 PPrestholt  
REBrowning TVerma  
MJBell JGiarratana  
PAltomare MKearney  
LBHigginbotham JSurmeier  
MRKnapp DMattson  
LHBarrett MNataraja  
HJMiller JStarmar  
RRBoyle TJohnson  
SCoplan WOlmostead  
JLinehan JWolf  
JKennedy FCameron  
RJWright PComella  
RJohnson MRhodes & r/f

ABender  
MFliegel  
EAsh  
JNeff  
PDR  
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LPDR's -  
B, N, S

WM 10  
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8411270429 841102  
PDR WASTE  
WM-10 PDR

Swip -1039  
NNWSI - 422  
Salt - 747

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At present, DOE is in the process of preparing the Environmental Assessments (EAs) for site screening required by the NWSA. The staff will be reviewing and commenting on these upon their publication. As noted in the text of the ISTPs, these staff documents address licensing issues which need to be resolved prior to licensing of a site. The ISTPs will therefore not be utilized as a benchmark in the staff's review of the EAs, nor will DOE be expected to address the ISTPs in their resolution of comments.

The staff is transmitting to the Federal Register a Notice of Availability on the ISTPs which provides for a 60-day public comment period. In addition to soliciting public comments, the staff solicits comments from the DOE. The copies which we are transmitting with this letter are for your convenience in developing comments from your staff, the field offices, and your contractors. The Division of Waste Management requests that the Department provide a single set of comments for each of these documents.

If you have any questions about these documents, please contact Hubert Miller, Chief, Repository Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management (FTS-427-4177).

Sincerely,

**"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY"**

Hubert J. Miller, Chief  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosures:  
Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions

cc: D. Vieth (NNWSI ISTP only)  
O. L. Olson (BWIP ISTP only)  
J. Neff (SRP ISTPs only)  
R. Stein (All ISTPs)  
C. Head (All ISTPs)

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Note: Enclosures not included because of their bulk. If copies are required please contact Nancy Still (x74426).

Marc Rhodes

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

NOV 06 1984

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The following documents are being distributed for your information and/or comment:

Draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions for Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP)

Draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions for Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI)

Draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions for Salt Repository Project (SRP) -- Paradox Basin Sites

Draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions for Salt Repository Project (SRP) -- Permian Basin Sites

Draft Issue-Oriented Site Technical Positions for Salt Repository Project (SRP) -- Gulf Coast Salt Dome Sites

Please forward any comments you may have to Hubert J. Miller, Chief, Repository Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop 623-SS, Washington, DC 20555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John J. Linehan".

John J. Linehan, Acting Chief  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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Sincerely,



John J. Linehan, Acting Chief  
Repository Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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