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DEC 31 1986

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Mr. J. Keating, Director
Basalt Waste Isolation Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

WM Record File <u>1012</u>	WM Project <u>10</u>
	Docket No. _____
	PDR ✓
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Distribution:	
	<u>1665</u>
	<u># 14</u>
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Dear Mr. Keating:

In January, 1984 members of the NRC technical staff and consultants undertook a data review of rock mechanics testing and test data at BWIP. As follow up to the data review, the NRC prepared and submitted to you, comments on the findings of the review (May 22, 1984 Robert Wright to O.L. Olson). One of the major comments expressed in that letter referred to the usefulness of conducting a peer review in the area of repository constructibility (i.e., insitu stress and rock strength).

Subsequently, such a peer review was done by DOE and we received and reviewed the results of the review given in "Geoengineering Design Parameters Workshop, Proceedings of a Workshop Held in Rapid City, South Dakota" which was held on June 25, 1985. The report indicates that a panel of five widely recognized experts in the field of rock mechanics met to discuss the state of stress at the Hanford site and the strength of a basalt rock mass. The proceedings summarize the discussions that took place and the positions that were taken by the participants. The type of peer review that was undertaken by the DOE on these issues should be very useful to working toward resolution of issues such as insitu stress.

The proceedings also included recommendations to the DOE on what future work should be performed (section 5.0 of the report, see attachment 1). Based on the importance of the issues that were discussed at the workshop held in Rapid City, the NRC would like to be informed as soon as is convenient as to the status of follow-ups on the recommendations that were made in section 5.0 of the proceedings. Receiving this information will contribute to our ongoing review of significant technical areas and our preparations for review of the Hanford SCP. Mr. John Buckley (FIS-427-4544) will be contacting Mr. Bruce Nicoll within the next two weeks to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,

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John J. Linehan, Acting Chief
Repository Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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OFFICIAL CONCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION RECORD

LETTER TO: Mr. J. Keating, Director
Basalt Waste Isolation Division
DOE, Richland, WA

FROM: John J. Linehan, Acting Chief
WMRP

SUBJECT: NRC COMMENTS ON DATA REVIEW OF ROCK MECHANICS TESTING AND
TEST DATA AT BWIP

DATE:

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B.L.C.
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