



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

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MAR 31 1983 Record File  
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WM Project WM-10  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
PDR   
LPDR

The Honorable John Spellman  
Governor of Washington  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Governor Spellman:

On November 12, 1982, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the DOE's Site Characterization Report (SCR) for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), a potential high-level waste repository site on the Hanford Reservation in the State of Washington. The BWIP SCR was submitted under the provisions of NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11. A copy of the SCR was forwarded to your office by my letter of November 15, 1982.

While NRC staff was analyzing the BWIP SCR, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, Public Law 97-425, was enacted into law. Under Section 113(b)(1) of that Act, DOE is required to submit to NRC, the host state, and any affected Indian tribe on whose reservation a candidate site is located for review and comment: (1) a general plan for site characterization activities to be conducted at such candidate site; (2) a description of the possible waste form or package; and (3) a conceptual repository design that takes into account likely site-specific requirements. The site characterization plan (SCP) required by the Act is similar, but not identical, to the SCR described in NRC's procedural rule, 10 CFR Part 60, Section 60.11.

We understand that DOE intends to submit to NRC later this year an SCP and related documents specified in the Act for BWIP. We also understand that these documents will supersede the November 1982 BWIP SCR and will provide information not included in the November 1982 BWIP SCR.

Upon receipt later this year, NRC will review the BWIP SCP. The NRC is also looking at the impact of the NWPA on NRC's procedural rule. However, pending any changes to NRC's procedural rule, we intend to provide NRC staff's draft analysis of the BWIP SCP for public review and comment prior to publication of a final analysis by NRC staff. Since the NRC staff has completed its review of the November 1982 BWIP SCR, we are publishing our draft analysis of that document now in order to provide DOE and all other interested parties with our views on the proposed site characterization program identified in the BWIP SCR. Accordingly, attached is a copy of the NRC staff's Draft Site Characterization Analysis (DSCA) (NUREG-0960) of the SCR.

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In addition to the DSCA, we have enclosed a copy of our letter to Mr. Robert L. Morgan, Project Director, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Project Office, Department of Energy, which forwarded a copy of the DSCA (Enclosure 2). Enclosure 3 is a copy of our Federal Register Notice as submitted to the Federal Register regarding the availability of the DSCA.

If you should have any questions regarding this material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards

Enclosures:

- 1. NUREG-0960
- 2. Ltr to R. Morgan, DOE
- 3. Notice of Availability of DSCA as submitted to Federal Register

This letter sent to attached list of 10 officials.

See internal distribution attached also.

NMSS  
Mausshardt  
83/03/

OFC	: WMPI	: WMPI	: WMPI	: WMPI	: WM	: ELD	: NMSS
NAME	: NStill:le	: RMacDougall	: DMattson	: JBunting	: RBrowning	: via telecon	: JDavis
DATE	: 83/03/31	: 83/03/	: 83/03/	: 83/03/31	: 83/03/31	: 83/03/	: 83/03/

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*per REC*

LIST OF ADDRESSEES  
FOR 3/31/83 LETTER FORWARDING BWIP-DSCA

Nicholas D. Lewis  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
Mail Stop PY 11  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable H. A. Barney Goltz  
Washington Senate  
Senate President Pro Tem  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Victor G. Atiyeh  
Governor of Oregon  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310

Johnson Meninick  
Tribal Chairman  
Yakima Indian Nation  
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Toppenish, WA 98948

The Honorable Gary Nelson  
House Minority Leader  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jennette Hayner  
Washington Senate  
Senate Minority Leader  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable John Spellman  
Governor of Washington  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Bill Sebero  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
of Benton County  
Benton County Courthouse  
P. O. Box 470  
Prosser, WA 99350

The Honorable John V. Evans  
Governor of Idaho  
State Capitol  
Boise, ID 83720

The Honorable Wayne Ehlers  
Washington House of Representatives  
Speaker of the House  
Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

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