



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

JAN 15 1985

*See Packet I
for encl.*

Mr. John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

WM Record File

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WM Project 1

Docket No. _____

PDR

LPDR _____

Distribution: _____

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Mr. Davis:

Section 114(e) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982 requires the Secretary of Energy, in cooperation with Federal agencies, to develop a Project Decision Schedule (PDS). We have developed the enclosed preliminary draft of the PDS based on informal discussions with your staff and on the general schedules contained in the draft Mission Plan issued in April 1984.

The purpose of the PDS is to identify the key activities, decision points, and deadlines for Federal agency actions that are integral to the initiation of operations by 1998 of a Radioactive Waste Management System. The PDS also includes a description of objectives and a sequence of deadlines for all Federal agencies required to take action in support of the initiation of repository operation.

The purpose for providing this preliminary draft to you at this time is to solicit your comments by February 22, 1985, with respect to the accuracy, clarity, and completeness of the listing of actions your agency must take in support of the development of the Radioactive Waste Management System. Although dates are shown in this preliminary draft, they are subject to revision as we further develop our overall system design and also finalize the Mission Plan. Accordingly, we are not asking you at this time to comment on the specific dates shown for each activity, although we would welcome your comments on the time durations for your actions that are contained in this preliminary draft.

It is our intent to issue a draft PDS for your review and comment shortly after we have finalized the Mission Plan. The Mission Plan is now scheduled for issuance in spring 1985. If necessary, we will meet with you to attempt to resolve problem areas identified during your review. The Department will then issue the Project Decision Schedule.

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The Federal agencies, upon the issuance of the PDS, would then be required to comply with the deadlines for Federal agency actions contained therein. If unable to do so then, as required by Section 114(e)(2) of the NWPA, they must submit a report to the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Congress explaining their reason for their inability to take the required action in the specified time.

I appreciate the cooperation and support that has previously been extended to us in the development of the preliminary draft Project Decision Schedule. I look forward to the continuation of this positive relationship. Should you, or your staff, have any questions relating to the PDS, please contact Charles Smith of my staff on 252-1252.

Sincerely,



Ben C. Rusche, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Attachment

cc: M. Kearney
N. Numark