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WM-10

WMHT: 101.1

Dr. Thomas H. Pigford, Chairman  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720

WM Record File  
101.1

WM Project 10

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Dr. Pigford:

I appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss matters related to high-level waste geologic disposal systems with you in Columbus last week. As I promised in our conversation, enclosed is a copy of the NRC staff's "Site Characterization Analyses" (NUREG-0960) of the DOE's plans for characterizing the Hanford site for potential use as a high level waste repository. These are plans presented in the DOE's Site Characterization Report submitted to the NRC in November 1982 on the Basalt Waste Isolation Project.

I invite your attention to two areas that were topics of conversation in Columbus. First, Chapter 3 and supporting appendices provide a critical analysis of current uncertainties with respect to site hydrology. Additional testing that the NRC staff considers will be necessary and sufficient to support licensing assessments is identified. Discussion of uncertainties about groundwater travel time is especially pertinent to the analyses presented in the Waste Isolation Systems Panel report. Also, you may find of interest the process of continuing performance assessment that we describe in Chapter 9 (Section 9.1.3, Figures 9.1) as being necessary to establish specific additional data gathering needs. I think you will find that the process of assessing the importance of uncertainties to system performance on an ongoing basis during investigations (including use of simple models where data are limited) is similar to what you were suggesting in Columbus.

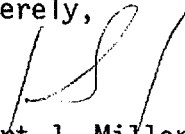
Finally, if you are interested in issues besides those discussed above, I suggest you start with the Summary. The Summary was written in such a way as to address major issues and identify specifically where supporting technical analysis and discussion can be found in the document.

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Please call me at 301-427-4177 if you have any questions on the document or our general approach to establishing licensing information needs.

Sincerely,



Hubert J. Miller, Chief  
High-Level Waste Technical  
Development Branch  
Division of Waste Management

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