

Comments on Site Characterization
Report for the Basalt Waste
Isolation Project (DOE/RL 82-3)
- Chapter 10, Section 2

General Comment

We wish to know if general design criteria for the surface facility for the BWIP will be developed and provided.

Specific Comments

Page

Comment

9, 10.1-4

Not surprisingly, the Site Characterization Report provides only very general information about the repository's surface facilities. We note that on Page 9, Volume I, it is stated, "The repository design includes surface waste receiving and inspection facilities, surface decontamination and packaging facilities," However, on Page 10.1-4, Volume 2, it is stated, "The conceptual design assumes that a waste packaging plant is not necessarily collocated at the repository. It further assumes that canisters are shipped to the repository by truck or rail in shipping casks."

Since the Site Characterization Report implies that disassembly of spent fuel may be accomplished prior to shipment to the repository, the Department should be aware that it is improbable that power reactor licensees would undertake this work. The Department should clarify its intent in the Site Characterization Report as to where disassembly for rod consolidation will be performed, i.e., at the repositories or at a central facility provided specifically for that purpose.

10.2-4

First paragraph. Is the concrete described here to be reinforced?

10.2-4

First paragraph. What does the word "sealed" mean in the context? Would a leakage test criteria be established to prove sealing?

10.2-4

Third paragraph. The drums discussed in this paragraph are apparently containers for TRU waste disposal. The report does not present a coherent discussion of these drums and their handling disposal.