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FEB 5 1981

Mr. Warren Eister
Department of Energy
Germantown, Maryland 20760

Dear Mr. Eister:

This is in response to your telephone call on January 8, 1981 concerning a tentative agenda for an NRC/DOE/ONWI meeting in February to review the status of waste package developments.

I agree with the items you have proposed to present, specifically, DOE's design criteria for the waste package, the degradation model for the package, the release model and test considerations. I would request that you also address the status of your efforts to establish a waste package conceptual design, including the number of barrier components, performance expectation for each component and uncertainty/conservatism in each component in accordance with actions ONWI has identified in Paragraph 8.4.1 of ONWI 96, Volume I, NWTS Waste Package Program Plan.

Concerning NRC presentations at the meeting, we will be able to comment on the status and the basis of 10 CFR 60. Concerning test methods and analyses for the waste package, NRC plans to prepare technical directives which address types of information concerning the waste package needed to assess manufacturing processes, package specifications, acceptance tests and waste package environments. In addition, the information needed to assess post-employment monitoring activities, quality assurance plans and quality control plans in so far as they affect waste package performance will be addressed in future technical directives. However, we have not formulated specific test methods or analyses nor have we plans to publish such information. We consider that the Department of Energy is responsible for developing them to help demonstrate that the waste package complies with 10 CFR 60. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for developing the understanding necessary to independently assess and interpret them. Thus, we would not be prepared to comment on analytic methods and tests nor address ONWI's inquiry concerning a calculational model for evaluating the 1000 year containment performance objective for the waste package. We would expect to address conservatism in the 1000 year containment performance objective in our comments on the basis for that objective.

The date for the meeting of February 12, 1981 with the meeting place here at NRC is satisfactory for us.

Sincerely,

~~F. Robert Cook~~
High-Level Waste Licensing

Management Branch
Division of Waste Management

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