

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

April 15, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.

Deputy Executive Director for

Nuclear Materials Safety, Sageguards,

and Operations Support

FROM:

Robert M. Bernero, Director

Office of Nuclear Material Safety

and Safeguards

SUBJECT:

DOE HLW STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES WORKSHOP

On April 3-4, 1991, Joe Youngblood and I participated in the subject workshop. This third workshop was promised by DOE as a means to present and discuss the strategic principles as they had evolved with the advice received in the first two workshops. In this workshop each participant had received the new principles draft in advance and the OCRWM associate directors each took the lead in their own areas for presentation of current thinking and the dialogue which resulted. DOE provided quite a few support people who listened and took copious notes. I have attached the final participants list.

John Bartlett opened the workshop and made some interesting comments:

- o The product of this effort will go into the Mission Plan Amendment
 - -- Draft: June 1991
 - -- 60-day comment period
 - -- Final: December 1991
- o No entirely new strategic concepts have been introduced.
- o Some strategic decisions should <u>not</u> be made now but held off until more data are available.

Later, his meaning on this last point was quite clear when he resisted the rather strong range of opinion which encourages DOE to reconsider the possible need now for study of another site both as a backup to Yucca Mountain and as the second repository.

The DOE is, of course, pursuing an earlier MRS. They said that The Negotiator must be succeesful by the end of CY92 to support the 1998 schedule.

The DOE is looking at the use of a Demonstration Facility, similar in concept to a G Tunnel, to be located in Fran Ridge which is to be east just across Midway Valley from Yucca Mountain. It is unsaturated tuff of the same formation as Yucca Mountain. It would be used for geotechnical purposes and perhaps for public tours as well. No emplacement of radioactive waste would be involved.

9401070118 931116 PDR COMMS NRCC CORRESPONDENCE PDR The DOE is planning to issue a catalogue of data related to Yucca Mountain. The first edition of the Data Catalogue is expected in October 1991.

Bill Gunter of EPA participated and took the opportunity to announce that Draft No. 3 of 40 CFR Part 191 would be out in a few weeks and would be used by the Conservancy Foundation as the negotiating draft. The Foundation's, Howard Bellman, is expected to contact the parties in July.

Robert M. Bernero, Director

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure:

cc: B. J. Youngblood

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