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

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR OPERATIONS

December 16, 1991

TO: George Pangburn, OCM/IS
Susan Bilhorn, OCM/KR
Joe Gray, OCM/JC ✓
Regis Boyle, OCM/FR
Pat Gwynn, OCM/GD

FROM: James L. Blaha, AO/OEDO

SUBJECT: UPCOMING COMMISSION BRIEFING

Enclosed for your information are
some questions which you may want to
consider for the Commission meeting with
Mr. Bartlett tomorrow.


James L. Blaha, AO/OEDO

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: SECY
J. Taylor, EDO
H. Thompson, DECS

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

**PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION BRIEFING BY DOE ON THE CIVILIAN
HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROGRAM (DECEMBER 17, 1991)**

- o The September 1991 Draft Mission Plan Amendment indicates that DOE will submit early evaluations of site suitability for peer review.
 - How and when do you anticipate interacting with NRC on these evaluations ?

- o The September 1991 Draft Mission Plan Amendment indicates that an iterative process of performance assessment is a major part of the effort to characterize and evaluate site suitability.
 - What role will performance assessment play in early evaluations of site suitability ?
 - How will site suitability evaluations and performance assessments affect the prioritization of site characterization activities and design commitments made in the SCP ?

- o The NRC has been interacting with the EPA to provide comments on Draft 3 of the High-level Waste Standard.
 - What significant issues did the DOE raise in their comments on Draft 3 to the EPA ?

- o Has the DOE, in coordination with EPA, made a determination on the applicability of RCRA to spent fuel and vitrified waste ?

- o Discuss the significant changes that have occurred in the schedule for site characterization or repository development since the DOE last met with the Commission (e.g. exploratory facility excavation and surface based testing).

- o Given the very extensive site investigation and facility design endeavor of DOE, and the massive amounts of existing data and data to be collected from many locations and in many formats, what is DOE's plan for managing this large and dispersed data base and making it available on an early and on going basis to all parties ?

- o In your view, is the prelicensing consultation process between NRC and DOE effective, and what improvements or shifts in focus in interactions between DOE and NRC would you like to see ?

- o Are there any NRC rules and regulations that you believe need revision prior to submitting a license application for either the MRS or the HLW repository?