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MEMORANDUM FOR: James P. Knight, Assistant Director for
Components & Structures Engineering, DE

FROM: Robert E. Jackson, Chief
Geosciences Branch, DE

SUBJECT: WNP-2 GABLE MOUNTAIN FAULT ASSESSMENT

On October 16 and 17, 1980, Phil Justus, accompanied by the U. S. Geological Survey, visited the WNP-2 site region and examined trench excavations at Gable Mountain. Although he cannot prepare a trip report for several weeks, due to the need to prepare for a G.E. Test Reactor subcommittee and full committee meetings, we have discussed his visit and decided on the following course of action in the immediate future.

I believe that we should handle this problem as a WNP-2 licensing action under the ongoing OL review and that we and our USGS advisors request all necessary information through the WNP-2 docket. This approach is absolutely necessary in order to avoid confusion due to the ancillary involvement of NESCO (Puget/Skagit site), Department of Energy, and various Waste Isolation Projects including NRC/NMSS.

It is our current understanding that the WNP-2 applicant will request through Harold Denton a meeting with the NRC staff and consultants on December 16, 1980 for the purpose of providing a comprehensive program to assess the significance of the discovery of the new faults including consideration of their impact on the seismic design adequacy of the facility. They also plan to solicit the assistance of NESCO and their consultants and will seek our review of their proposed program. I will also plan to inform relevant DOE and waste isolation groups (NMSS) of the meeting. WNP-2 will plan on submitting an annotated agenda about a week before the meeting. We will work with them to develop this agenda in order to have the most productive meeting possible.

This approach will allow for the best use of our available resources and allow WNP-2 to proceed with a more focussed program of investigation following the meeting. Dr. Justus will proceed with completion of his trip report after the GETR meetings. Based on our present understanding and due to the relatively early stage of the Gable Mountain fault investigations, we cannot reach any immediate conclusion with respect to the safety significance that these faults may have on the WNP-2.

I will keep you informed of any new developments as the meeting date approaches.

Original Signed by
R. E. Jackson
Robert E. Jackson, Chief
Geosciences Branch, DE

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