



MAY 11 1979

Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William J. Dircks, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

This confirms the agreement reached between M. Krug of your staff and C. Newton of DOE to postpone the next briefing for NRC on our nuclear waste isolation program until May 23, 1979. Please accept my apology for being unable to meet the schedule of meetings proposed in my memorandum of March 30, 1979. We have discovered that it takes longer than we expected to prepare quality presentations. If it is all right with you we would like to schedule future briefings one at a time.

Enclosed for your review is an agenda for the May 23 meeting and a proposed joint NRC-DOE press release. Note that we are proposing to limit public participation to an observer status, which we understand is the format used by the Commission in conducting their meetings. We feel this is consistent with the objective of providing NRC with technical information on our programs. DOE plans to conduct separate meetings to obtain public input to our programs at future dates and in a different forum.

Sheldon Meyers
Sheldon Meyers, Program Director
Office of Nuclear Waste Management

2 Enclosures

cc: w/enclosure

R. B. Minogue, NRC-SD
S. Levine, NRC-RES
R. G. Ryan, NRC-SP
D. Egan, EPA-ANR-460
R. Belcher, State of NM
R. Peluso, Mine Safety & Health Admin.

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Proposed DOE-NRC Joint Press Release

DOE to Brief NRC on Environmental Surveys of Areas for Waste Sites

DOE will brief the Nuclear Regulatory Commission May 23 on environmental surveys of regions in the U.S. that are being examined in a search for suitable sites for underground repositories for high-level nuclear waste. Environmental surveys for regions containing salt domes, bedded salt deposits, basalt, and other rock types will be presented. Regional features to be discussed include land use, surface water, meteorology, ecology, socio-economics and demography.

Members of the public are invited to attend as observers. DOE and NRC personnel will be available following the meeting to answer questions. Those wishing to attend the meeting are requested to contact M. Krug of NRC (301/427-4433) by May 21. The meeting will be from 9:30 am to 4:00 p.m. in room 150 of the Willste Building, 7915 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

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AGENDA FOR NRC BRIEFING BY DOE
MAY 23, 1979 - ROOM 150, Willste Building
7915 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS OF REGIONS FOR HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY SITES

9:30 Introduction (J. Malara, NRC)
9:45 NWTS Overview (W. Hewitt, ONWI)
10:00 Survey Program (D. Waite, ONWI)
10:30 Gulf Interior Region Survey (M. Giora, ONWI)
11:00 Break
11:15 Salina and Permian Basin Survey (D. Waite, ONWI)
12:00 Lunch
1:30 Non-Salt Survey (W. McIntosh, ONWI)
1:45 National Screening Program (W. Newcomb, ONWI)
2:00 BWIP Survey (G. Hunt, Rockwell)
2:45 Break
3:00 WIPP Survey (M. Merritt, Sandia)
4:00 Adjournment

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