



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

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Bradford

FROM: John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS

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The NRC staff met with Department of Energy (DOE) personnel on October 20, 1980 to discuss the technical aspects of DOE's initial plans to implement the high-level waste solidification project as mandated by the Act. The discussion was divided into four categories: 1) legislative status of the Act, 2) cost and schedule of the DOE's activities, 3) current and planned DOE's activities, 4) areas requiring DOE/NRC resolution. A copy of the DOE's slide presentation shown at the meeting is enclosed.

The Act was signed into law on October 1, 1980 authorizing the DOE to carry out a high-level liquid nuclear waste management demonstration project at West Valley. The DOE's responsibilities under the demonstration project include solidification of the liquid high-level radioactive waste; development of containers for disposal of the solidified waste; transportation of the solidified waste to a federal repository as soon as is feasible; disposal of low-level and transuranic radioactive waste generated by the solidification program; and decontamination and decommissioning of all facilities associated with the storage and solidification of the high-level liquid waste.

The cost/schedule baseline of the DOE's activities will be developed and maintained by the Argonne National Laboratory. Among the DOE's planned activities include the establishment of a West Valley site project office; issuing of RFPs to obtain a prime contractor to carry out the project; and entering into agreements with the State of New York (NYS). DOE/NYS agreements will include: 1) availability of facilities and high-level wastes from NYS to DOE without transfer of title; 2) 90/10 percent DOE/NYS cost-sharing arrangement; 3) DOE providing technical assistance to NYS to amend license; 4) joint submittal by DOE and NYS of an application for a license amendment.

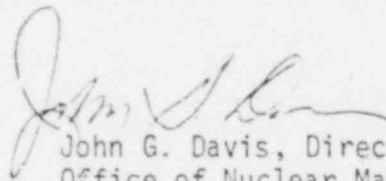
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The areas which DOE identified as requiring resolution with NRC are: 1) NRC review and consultation during the project, 2) NYS/NFS license amendment, 3) NRC finalization of waste form criteria, 4) NRC demonstration and decommissioning requirements. Of these items, the first two will require dedicated NRC staff attention over the next several months. The first item will be the formulation of an interagency agreement between DOE and NRC which will specify the mechanisms for NRC's review and consultation during the project. The Act requires that this agreement be signed by the Commission and the Secretary of Energy by October 1, 1981. Secondly, the NRC must process an application in support of modifying the existing facility license to permit the conduct of this project. We recommended to DOE that they arrange with the present co-licensees to meet with us in the near future to begin discussions on the license modification.

It was agreed that future scheduled meetings with DOE related to the project would be publicly announced.



John G. Davis, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. DOE Slide Presentation
2. List of Meeting Attendees