

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 16, 1998

Mr. Hugh Thompson, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director
for Regulatory Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We would like to propose that our agencies jointly select the Receiving Basin for Off-Site Fuel (RBOF) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) as the third and fourth pilot projects under our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The RBOF, which is located at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina, provides for the safe receipt and interim storage of irradiated spent nuclear fuel elements from off-site test and research reactors--domestic and foreign. The RBOF is located in H area of SRS, near the center of the site, and has been operating and receiving off-site fuel since 1964.

The PNNL is located on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. There are six key facilities at PNNL--the Hazardous Waste Storage Building, Applied Chemistry Laboratory, Material Science Laboratory, Chemical Science Laboratory, Life Science Laboratory, which are located in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site, and the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory, located in the Richland North Research Complex.

Our respective staffs will begin working to develop a work plan and schedule to begin the RBOF pilot within the next three months. We anticipate developing a work plan and schedule to begin the PNNL pilot in early FY 1999. The Department is committed to exploring additional, more challenging pilots over the next 18 months to simulate Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulation.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202) 586-6151.

200058

Sincerely,

Peter N. Brush
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety, and Health

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Peter N. Brush
Department of Energy (DOE)

TO:

Thompson, DEDR

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO:

Thompson, DEDR

DESC:

RECEIVING BASIN FOR OFF-SITE RUEL AND PACIFIC
NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY (PNNL) AS THIRD AND
FOURTH PILOT PROJECT OF MOU

ROUTING:

Callan
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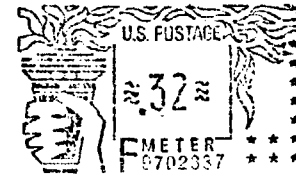
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mid 4/21/98

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585
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