#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

#### NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING

SUBJECT: THE PROCESS FOR DETERMINING

SITE SUITABILITY

PRESENTER: DR. JANE SUMMERSON

PRESENTER'S TITLE

AND ORGANIZATION: SITE SUITABILITY TEAM LEADER

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** 

PRESENTER'S

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (702) 295-9610

**OCTOBER 12, 1994** 

#### **Outline**

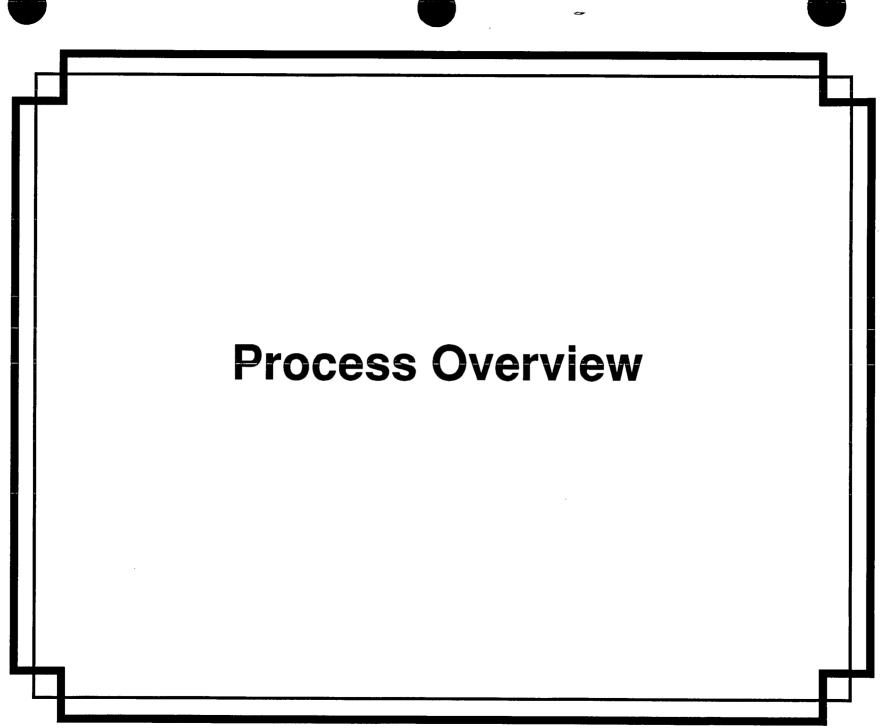
- DOE's Siting Guidelines
- Process Overview
  - Technical basis
  - Peer review
  - Guideline compliance assessment
  - Higher-level findings
  - Technical site suitability
  - Overall suitability
  - Site recommendation

#### **DOE's Siting Guidelines**

- Range of options considered concerning application of the guidelines
- Public comments solicited on application of the guidelines
- No clear consensus reflected in public comments

### DOE's Siting Guidelines (CONTINUED)

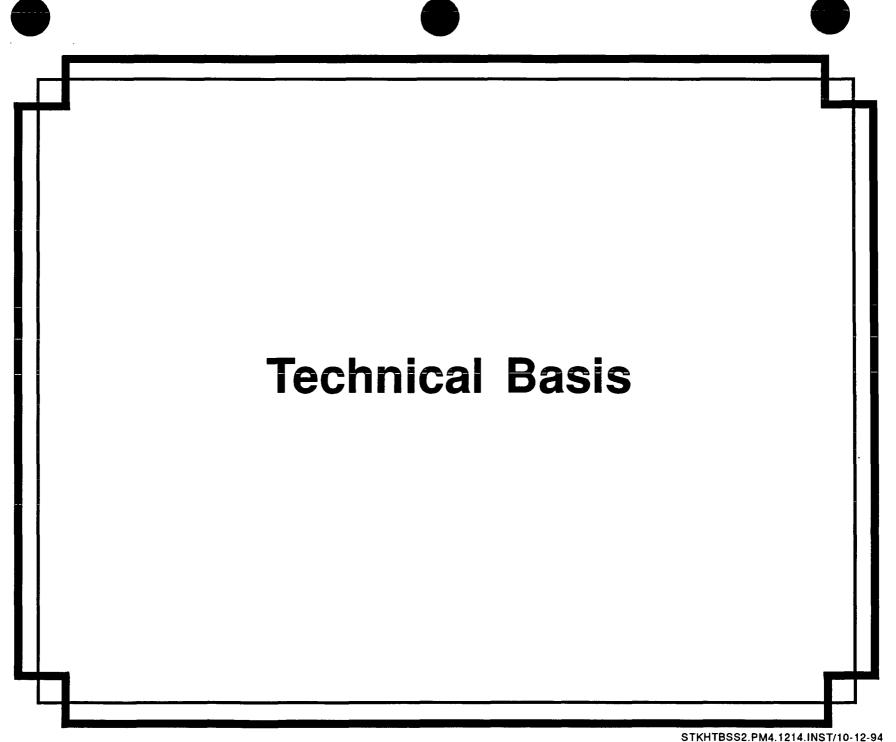
DOE concluded that no compelling justification exists for rulemaking



#### **Process Overview**

#### **Characteristics of the process**

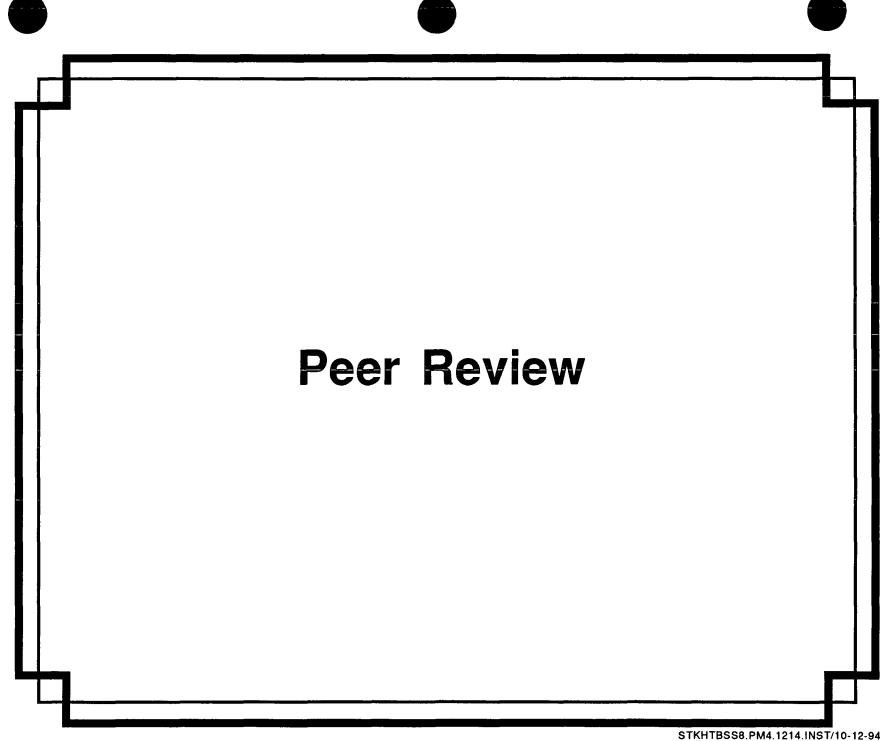
- Open and sequential
- Evaluation of individual guideline conditions or groups of guideline conditions as the relevant data, analyses and facility designs become available
- Predecisional public involvement at key points in the evaluation sequence
- Provides timely information and analyses for DOE management decisions
- Documents evidence and rationale for DOE decisions
- Clear separation between technical information and an assessment of adequacy to support DOE decisions



#### **Technical Basis Documentation**

#### Technical basis reports will

- Discuss the available data and analyses
- Present a current understanding of the subject area, including evaluations of:
  - uncertainties
  - credible alternative models or interpretations permitted by the data
  - bounds on conditions and processes consistent with the current understanding
- Contain Executive Summary written for the layperson
- Each be peer reviewed by National Academy of Sciences (NAS)



#### Selecting The Peer Review Panel

#### The peer reviewers will be selected considering:

- Minimum qualifications
- Nominations from the public

#### **Peer Review Panel**

Management of the peer review will provide opportunity for public observation of formal interactions between peer reviewers and authors

#### **Peer Review Panel**

(CONTINUED)

Reviews will focus on evaluating the validity of the data and interpretations and the adequacy of the treatment given to technical uncertainties in describing the current state of understanding

# **Guideline Compliance Assessment** STKHGUAS2.PM4.1214.INST/10-12-94

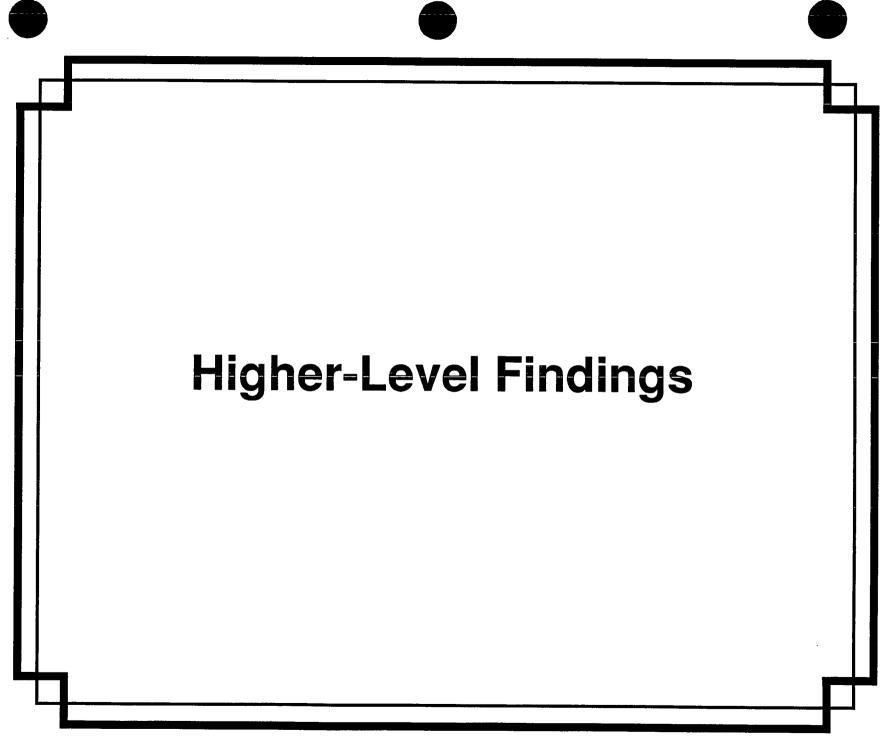
## Development of the Guideline Compliance Assessment

(CONTINUED)

- Draft guideline compliance assessments will be written based upon
  - Technical basis
  - External review of the technical basis

## **External Review of the Guideline Compliance Assessment**

- DOE will publish a Federal Register Notice of the draft guideline compliance assessment, technical basis and peer review availability for public review and comment
- DOE will hold public workshops on the guideline assessments during the public comment period to:
  - Provide an open forum to discuss the technical basis and the draft guideline compliance assessments



#### **Higher-Level Findings**

(CONTINUED)

A favorable higher-level finding requires a judgement that no new information is likely to change the conclusion, however

- DOE recognizes that after a decision, it is conceivable that new information could require a reassessment of the body of evidence used to support a higher-level finding.
- Such information should be brought to the attention of the Director as soon as possible so that DOE can take appropriate steps.

#### **Overall Suitability**

- The OCRWM Director will make a decision on overall site suitability based on the technical site suitability evaluation and higher-level findings on environmental quality, transportation, and socioeconomics guidelines
- If, at any time, the site is found to be unsuitable, an alternative plan will be submitted to Congress within six months of the unsuitability declaration