



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

Reply to:
1050 East Flamingo Road
Suite 319
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
Tel: (702) 388-6125
FTS: 598-6125

TO: John J. Linehan, Director, HLPD, Division of High-Level
Waste Management, M/S 4 H 3

FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
PTP

DATE: July 31, 1990

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GAO REPRESENTATIVES

On July 24, 1990, Mr. Gene Buchert and Mr. James Ohl (415) 556-6200, representatives of the U. S. General Accounting Office (GAO) met with John Gilray and myself at the NRC Las Vegas Office. Apparently the GAO is conducting an investigation of the DOE Yucca Mountain Office.

Mr. Buchert and Mr. Ohl were primarily interested in the prototype drilling operation at Apache Leap, particularly whether or not the dry core drilling technique that YMPO has developed is a success. The discussion concerned only the technical aspects of the prototype drilling program. The GAO plans to follow this activity closely.

In addition to the above, we had a general discussion on the QA program. Mr. Buchert and Mr. Ohl were primarily interested in whether or not the QA program was making positive progress toward an approved appendix B program.

Of particular interest, and concern, was a request that John Gilray and I meet with the GAO investigators after each visit to the DOE so as to check their understanding of the DOE program with us. It was stated that GAO representatives had met with Mr. Browning and that he had no objection to such an arrangement. John and I made it clear that if we engaged in discussions concerning the DOE program in Nevada with the GAO, opinions expressed by either John or myself would be our opinions only and not those of the NRC. Mr. Buchert and Mr. Ohl seemed satisfied with that but did say that they would request an official statement or comment from the NRC at the end of the investigation.

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