



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MAR 9 1993

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing & Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

Enclosed is the draft Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos) technical report (LA-9325, Volume III) on the status of volcanism studies for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project. The report discusses and summarizes over a decade of research conducted by Los Alamos to assess the impact of potential volcanism on the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The primary goal in developing the technical report is to initiate discussions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concerning the methodology and logic of the approaches used in the volcanism studies through 1992. A secondary goal is to subject the report to the scrutiny of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and the scientific community.

At the November 24, 1992, interactions planning meeting, the U.S. Department of Energy agreed to provide the draft Los Alamos report 60 days prior to the June 9, 1993, technical exchange on volcanism, in order to allow the NRC staff and the State of Nevada time to review the draft report and provide preliminary written comments prior to the technical exchange. Discussions at the technical exchange may then focus on these comments and they may then be considered during finalization and internal Los Alamos review of the draft report.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris Einberg of my office at 202-586-8869.

*see enclosure
shel*

190085

Sincerely,

Dwight E. Shelor

Dwight E. Shelor
Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

9303190338 930309
PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

*WM-11
NH03/11
102.8*

Enclosure:

Draft Los Alamos Technical
Report (LA-9325, Volume III)
on Volcanism

cc: w\enclosure

C. Gertz, YMPO
R. Loux, State of Nevada
T. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Commission
D. Bechtel, Las Vegas, NV
Eureka County, NV
Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
W. Offutt, Nye County, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
F. Mariani, White Pine County, NV
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
C. Abrams, NRC