



**Department of Energy**  
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
 P.O. Box 30307  
 North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

**JUN 30 1998**

**OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Michael J. Bell, Chief  
 Engineering and Geosciences Branch  
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**TRANSMITTAL OF KEY DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S (DOE) VIABILITY ASSESSMENT (VA): "MONITORED GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY TEST AND EVALUATION PLAN" AND "REPOSITORY SURFACE DESIGN LAYOUT ANALYSIS"**

The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) will issue the VA in late fiscal year 1998. The VA will reference supporting technical documents prepared by OCRWM and our contractors. In order to facilitate your review of the VA, we are providing these supporting documents to you as they are accepted by DOE. The DOE transmitted a list of these key supporting documents and a schedule for their availability on January 8, 1998. Our goal is to ensure the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is aware of these supporting documents to enable you to focus reviews on these key areas prior to DOE's transmittal of the VA to Congress. After the Congressional submittal, the NRC and other interested parties will have the opportunity to examine the VA.

Repository Surface Design Site Layout Analysis: This analysis is a revision to an existing analysis reflecting changes to the site layout. It addresses the location of surface facilities, site infrastructure, site facilities, and major site features.

Monitored Geologic Repository Test and Evaluation Plan: Updated revision of the VA Test and Evaluation Plan (T&EP): (1) incorporates the latest design information to be used for VA, and (2) refines, to the extent possible, the test identification and description sheets contained in the appendices of the draft VA T&EP packages to meet desired thermal loading goals.

As you are aware, DOE will continue to evaluate the science, design, and performance assessment of Yucca Mountain after the VA. We expect to update information from these evaluations after

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the VA and will, of course, continue to focus our interactions on these evaluations as we approach License Application.

Please direct comments on this letter or the enclosures to J. Timothy Sullivan or April V. Gil, of my staff, at (702) 794-5589 and (702) 794-5578, respectively.



Stephan Brocoum  
Assistant Manager for Licensing

AML:AVG-2003

Enclosures:

1. Monitored Geologic Repository Test and Evaluation Plan
2. Repository Surface Design Layout Analysis

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