

OCT 29 1991

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director  
for Systems and Compliance  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF SUMMARY OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION (NRC)-U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) TECHNICAL EXCHANGE  
ON DOE'S EXPLORATORY STUDIES FACILITY (ESF) DESIGN CONTROL PROCESS

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the summary of the September 16, 1991, NRC-DOE technical exchange on DOE's ESF design control process. The purpose of this exchange was for DOE to explain its newly developed ESF design control process, to provide examples of how it has been implemented in the revised ESF Title I design, and to indicate how the portion of NRC's Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) Objection 1 dealing with the ESF design control process has been addressed. A second purpose was for DOE to present a schedule of the major milestones for initial ESF design and construction. A representative of the State of Nevada also attended this exchange.

After DOE's presentations and ensuing discussion, NRC indicated that it appears that DOE is addressing the ESF design control process portion of SCA Objection 1. NRC further indicated that DOE needs to document the ESF design control process presented at this exchange and demonstrate its effective implementation before NRC can make an independent determination of whether that part of the objection is resolved.

If you have any questions on the enclosure, please contact King Stablein (FTS/[301]-492-0446) of my staff.

Sincerely,

*for*  
(Original Signed by *Joseph J. Holonich*)  
John J. Linehan, Acting Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated *on the shelf*  
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Date: 10/28/91	: 10/28/91	: 10/28/91	: 10/29/91	: 10/29/91	:

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