



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUN 23 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 are U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) responses to three comments and two questions on the Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) document received from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on July 22, 1992 (Enclosure 1). For information purposes, Enclosure 2 is a DOE response package to comments received from all affected units of local government, the State of Nevada, and the U.S. Department of the Interior during the comment period (February 21-June 15, 1992).

An "Introduction" to DOE's response to NRC states DOE's position with respect to the ESSE document itself, and the conclusions and findings made. DOE intends to consider these comments when planning activities that pertain to the manner in which subsequent evaluations are undertaken.

If you have any questions, please contact Corinne Macaluso of my staff at (202) 586-2837.

John P. Roberts, Director
Regulatory Compliance Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosures: As stated

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cc:

C. Gertz, YMPO (w/o enclosures)
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
R. Loux, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Las Vegas, NV
Eureka County, NV
Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
W. Offutt, Nye County, NV
L. Bradshaw, 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
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