

February 08, 1996

Dr. Stephen J. Brocou Assistant Manager
for Suitability and Licensing
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Project Office
P. O. Box 98606
101 Convention Center Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

0469

SUBJECT: THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OPEN ITEMS - VOLCANISM

References: (1) Letter, Brocoum to Holonich, 08/11/95
(2) Letter, Shelor to Holonich, 03/09/93
(3) Letter, Holonich to Roberts, 07/10/92
(4) Letter, Holonich to Milner, 09/14/94
(5) Letter, Holonich to Shelor, 08/18/93

Dear Dr. Brocoum:

In its various comments to the Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission had expressed concerns related to the use of the "tripartite" probability. Specifically, the NRC was concerned because the probability function, as expressed in the various DOE documents, did not appear to be sufficient to address NRC regulatory concerns. In its response to NRC Comment 1 on DOE Study Plan 8.3.1.8.1.2 (Brocoum to Holonich, 08/11/95), DOE agreed to change the form of the probability function used to assess volcanic hazards into one which the staff considers is better able to address NRC concerns. Therefore, the NRC considers that Comment 1, Study Plan 8.3.1.8.1.2, and Comment 8, Study Plan 8.3.1.8.1.1, are resolved. In addition, Concern 2 (Holonich to Shelor, 08/18/93), has also been satisfactorily resolved.

If there are any questions concerning this letter, please contact John S. Trapp of my staff at (301) 415-8063.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Richard Weller

for Michael J. Bell, Chief
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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PDR WASTE
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cc: See attached list

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