

March 14, 1996

Mr. Stephen J. Brocoun, 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

0479

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OPEN
ITEMS RELATED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STUDY PLAN
8.3.1.8.5.1

References: (1) Letter, Holonich to Shelor, 05/31/94
(2) Letter, Brocoun to Holonich, 07/27/95
(3) Letter, Brocoun to Holonich, 08/11/94

Dear Dr. Brocoun:

In its letter of July 27, 1995, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided responses to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's comments on Study Plan 8.3.1.8.5.1. Based on a review of this letter, NRC considers that the information needed to resolve Questions 1, 2, 4, and 6 was adequately provided. In response to Comment 2, DOE has provided the requested procedure; therefore, the NRC considers this comment resolved. In addition, while NRC still has technical concerns related to Comment 3, it concludes that DOE has supplied sufficient information to resolve this concern as it relates to the referenced Study Plan. In its response to comments on Study Plan 8.3.1.8.1.2 (DOE letter dated August 11, 1995), DOE has supplied sufficient information to resolve NRC concerns related to Xenolith studies as expressed in Comment 6. Therefore, NRC considers that Comments 2, 3, and 6, and Questions 1, 2, 4, and 6 relating to Study Plan 8.3.1.8.5.1 are 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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cc: See attached list

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LIST FOR LETTER TO S. BROCOUM DATED March 14, 1996

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
B. Price, Nevada Legislative Committee
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
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D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
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A. Melendez, NIEC
R. Arnold, Pahrump, NV
M. Stellavato, Nye County, NV
R. Milner, DOE/Washington, DC