

April 23, 1996

Dr. Stephen J. Brocoum, 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

Dear Dr. Brocoum:

As noted in your April 4, 1996, letter to me, in response to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff request, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) representatives at the Yucca Mountain site obtained a large rock sample from the proposed repository horizon within the Exploratory Studies Facility which is currently under construction. The sample was appropriately handled, packaged and then shipped to our contractor, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, in San Antonio, Texas, for studies related to potential microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) of candidate waste package materials. The sample was received in good order, and the MIC studies will be initiated shortly. In this regard, I want to thank you and the members of your staff, especially Tim Hawe, for the excellent cooperation and assistance provided to acquire the requested sample. As you know, the request was initiated through our on-site representative, Chad Glenn, and the process was efficient and worked well. With respect to the planned MIC studies, it is our intent to provide you with any published reports, as they become available.

If you have any questions about this activity, I may be reached at (301) 415-7286.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

cc: See attached list

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