

November 18, 1998

Stephan Brocoum, Acting Assistant Manager
Office of Licensing and Regulatory Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

SUBJECT: TRENCHES AND TEST PITS SCHEDULED TO BE BACKFILLED

Dear Dr. Brocoum:

We have no comments on your October 30, 1998 letter regarding the listing of trenches and test pits, used for Department of Energy (DOE) site characterization studies, which you plan to close. This letter should not be interpreted as a statement by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff on the sufficiency of the DOE studies, or the data acquired from the trenches and test pits, for purposes of a site suitability determination or licensing.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Michael J. Bell, Acting Chief
Performance Assessment and HLW
Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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