

November 17, 1995

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Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office,
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
101 Convention Center Drive
Suite P-110
MS 0101
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My staff has reviewed the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain (60 FR 40164 dated August 7, 1995). Furthermore, members of my staff have attended two of the scoping meetings related to your preparation of the EIS. Based on the information to date, the NRC staff has one comment at this time for DOE to consider in developing its EIS. We reserve the right to file additional comments on this matter.

An EIS should include an analysis which considers and balances the environmental and other effects of the proposed action, and the alternatives available for reducing or avoiding adverse environmental and other effects, as well as the environmental, economic, technical, and other benefits of the proposed action. As noted in the Federal Register notice, DOE has chosen three thermal load implementation alternatives. Our comment is that if all three alternatives are viable from an EIS perspective, then DOE should ensure that its program adequately supports investigation of all three alternatives so that the EIS includes sufficient information and analysis for each alternative to satisfy DOE's National Environmental Policy Act obligation.

We expect that DOE will factor this comment into the development of its EIS and site characterization program. Please call me at (301) 415-7238 if you would like to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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* See previous concurrence

OFC	HLUR*		HLUR*	E	OGC		HLUR		
NAME	KKalman		JThoma		WReamer		JHolonich		
DATE	11/09/95		11/05/95	H	11/15/95		11/17/95		

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DOCUMENT NAME: S;\DWM\HLUR\KLIK\EIS

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NAME	<i>see previous comment</i> KKalman		JThoma <i>JOT</i>		<i>correctly e-mail</i> WBeamer <i>with e-mail</i> <i>for forward</i>	JHolonich			
DATE	11/9/95		11/15/95	H	11/15/95	11/ /95			

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NAME	KKalman <i>KLK</i>		JThoma		<i>to be reviewed by WBeaman with above comment</i>		JHolonich		
DATE	11/9 /95		11/ /95		11/15/95		11/ /95		