



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John H. Austin, Chief  
Performance Assessment and HLW Integration Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

FROM: William L. Belke, Sr. On-Site Licensing  
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*Chad Glenn  
for  
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SUBJECT: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON-SITE  
LICENSING REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT ON YUCCA  
MOUNTAIN PROJECT FOR NOVEMBER 1996

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission On-Site Representative's (OR's) report for the period of November 1-30, 1996.

The principal purpose of the OR reports is to alert NRC staff, managers and contractors to information on U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs for site characterization, repository design, performance assessment, and environmental studies that may be of use in fulfilling NRC's role during pre-licensing consultation. The principal focus of this and future OR reports will be on DOE's programs for the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF), surface-based testing, performance assessment, data management systems and environmental studies. Relevant information includes new technical data, DOE's plans and schedules, and the status of activities to pursue site suitability and ESF development. In addition to communication of this information, any potential licensing concerns, or opinions raised in this report represent the views of the ORs and not that of NRC headquarters' staff.

The ORs continue to monitor ESF and surface-based testing activities. In the ESF, activities continue to focus on the excavation of the Connecting Drift to the Heater Drift Test area in Alcove 5, testing of the Ghost Dance Fault in Alcove 6, and the excavation of Alcove 7. Surface-based tracer testing continues at the C-Hole Complex, along with borehole pneumatic testing at other locations at Yucca Mountain. Preparations are also underway for the start up of the Fran Ridge Heater Test. This report also identifies several recently completed Yucca Mountain Project documents that may have a bearing on NRC Key Technical Issues.

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If you have any questions on this report or its enclosures,  
please call William L. Belke or Chad J. Glenn on (702) 388-6125.

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