



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
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AUG 18 1995

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

REQUEST TO TEST PNEUMATIC PACKERS AT APACHE LEAP SITE
(SCPB: 8.3.1.3.7.2)

The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project plans to use pneumatic packer equipment for cross-hole borehole testing in several of its tests during fiscal year 1996. Prior to the initiation of these tests, the project would like to test the equipment for one week in order to obtain calibrated background data relative to operation of the packers. As you know, the U.S. Geological Survey tested pneumatic packers of a different design for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project air permeability tests at Apache Leap several years ago. A one-day test of the equipment, which resulted in a design modification, has been conducted at the Nevada Test Site. The present design calls for isolating a zone with two packers. This design has not been tested. The Apache Leap Site would again be an ideal location for this purpose because it provides a good set of boreholes that have previously been tested. We would need a pair of boreholes with good crosshole pneumatic connections for fast pressure responses.

We request access to the site to conduct this test in early September. The window of opportunity would be narrow because the University of Arizona will begin its tracer tests at Apache Leap in October. This possibility has been discussed with Thomas J. Nicholson of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Research and Randy Bassett of the University of Arizona. No money would be exchanged for this purpose. The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project principal investigator is Joseph S. Wang of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory.

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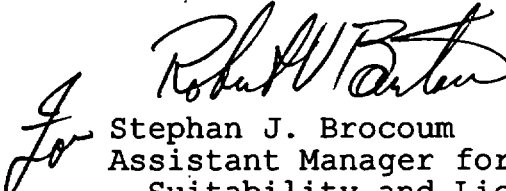
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Joseph J. Holonich

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We would appreciate your early attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact April V. Gil at (702) 794-7622.


For Stephan J. Brocoun
Assistant Manager for
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AMSL:AMS-4299

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