



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JAN 21 1992

Dr. Dade Moeller, Chairman
Advisory Committee for Nuclear Waste
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Moeller:

Enclosed are reports prepared by an external review panel which was tasked by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with evaluating the concepts, data, and interpretations presented by Jerry Szymanski in his report of July 26, 1989. The external review panel produced two reports reflecting majority and minority viewpoints: (1) External Review Panel Majority Report, and (2) Minority Report of the Special DOE Review Panel. These reports have not yet been officially reviewed by DOE.

A 17-member panel of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is also focusing on the topic of coupled processes as they might affect a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The NAS report is expected to be released early this year.

The DOE will carefully consider the external review panel reports and NAS report prior to implementing any necessary modifications to the site characterization program.

If you have any questions, contact Chris Einberg at (202) 586-8869 or FTS 896-8869.

Sincerely,

John P. Roberts
Acting Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosures:

1. External Review Panel
Majority Report
2. Minority Report of
Special DOE Review Panel

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ADD: Ken Hooks

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cc w/o encl:

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