

AUG 04 1992

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Brad Mettam, Project Coordinator
County of Inyo Planning Department
Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office
Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526

Dear Mr. Mettam:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO FORMAT AND CONTENT OF STUDY PLANS

This letter responds to your letter to me, dated July 15, 1992, concerning the changes the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed to the format and content of the Site Characterization Plan Study Plans in its letter dated July 8, 1992. In particular, I am responding to your statement concerning the deletion from the Study Plans of references to quality assurance (QA) controls.

DOE has committed to the NRC, in its Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance Requirements Document (QARD), to develop and implement a QA program which meets regulatory requirements. The NRC staff reviewed and accepted the QARD (DOE/RW-0214), Revision 4, in my letter to OCRWM (J. Roberts) dated November 11, 1992. It is not necessary that this commitment be related in each Study Plan. The implementation of QA controls affecting Study Plan activities is verified through NRC staff observations of OCRWM QA audits and surveillances. The deletion of the reference to QA controls from the Study Plans does not diminish, in any way, the DOE commitment to or the NRC verification of these controls.

Should you have any questions concerning this subject, please contact me on (301) 504-3387 or Ken Hooks of my staff on (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

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Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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Mr. Brad Mettam

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