Dr. James A. Thurber, Director
Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies
The American University
Suite 228
4410 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

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JAN 9 1994

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON PUBLISHED WORKS AND COMMENTS REGARDING THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, 1989-1993

Dear Dr. Thurber:

In your letter dated December 15, 1993, you requested review and comment on the "Draft Report on Published Works and Comments Regarding the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program," which will be provided to the Secretary of Energy to enable her to address concerns identified by stakeholders over the past five years. The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the above document and offers the following comment for your consideration.

Although the NRC can be considered a "stakeholder," it is tasked to regulate the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) efforts to characterize and license a site for a high-level radioactive waste geologic repository. In its role as regulator, the NRC tracks those concerns and questions provided to DOE by the NRC to ensure closure. The current vehicle used by the NRC to perform this tracking is the Open Items Tracking System (OITS). The OITS will track items from the Site Characterization Analysis forward, and is the NRC's primary method to ensure that DOE adequately addresses NRC concerns and questions. DOE has been answering these concerns and questions, as part of the NRC/DOE pre-license application consultation process, and we believe that no special effort to identify and categorize these concerns and questions is required.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Director, Division of High-Level Waste Management, at (301) 504-3404.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Robert M. Bernero
Robert M, Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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* See previous concurrence

OFC	HLPD*		HLPD*		HLWM*		HLWM	C	NMSS		NMSS	
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