



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

OCT 1 1993

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

By letter dated September 3, 1993 (Holonich to Shelor), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested the Performance Assessment Annual Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 1994. This product was reported in the Sandia National Laboratories Monthly Highlights and Status Report for May 1993 to be under preparation.

We wish to respond first to your specific request, and second to the general principal of requesting products or information referenced in informal communications from participants to the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO).

Early in FY 1993, discussions occurred within YMPO about whether or not a Performance Assessment Annual Plan was needed, and a plan was begun. However, this plan was merged into a more comprehensive annual plan for activities under YMPO Work Breakdown Structure Element 1.2.5 (YMPO's regulatory function, which includes performance assessment). When this annual plan is developed, it will be sent to the NRC.

With respect to information reported in YMPO's monthly reports, these reports to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/YMPO are a requirement of DOE Order 4700. They are management tools only, are not reviewed or approved by DOE/YMPO, and are not a formal means to communicate the availability of information from the site characterization program to NRC. This role is fulfilled by the Site Characterization Progress Report. To avoid the prospect of requesting nonexistent documents, the NRC On-Site Representatives (OR) should ask YMPO staff about the role of prospective documents and the accuracy of references in DOE's internal management tools. The ORs may then provide more accurate information to NRC for decisions about what to request from DOE.

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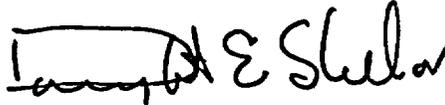
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If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Skuchko of my office at (202) 586-4590.

Sincerely,



Dwight E. Shelor
Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

C. Gertz, YMPO
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
R. Loux, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Las Vegas, NV
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
R. Williams, Lander County, NV
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J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
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