

JUL 14 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Associate Director
 for Systems and Compliance
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 U. S. Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TOPICAL REPORT, "METHODOLOGY FOR SEISMIC HAZARDS ASSESSMENT AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN"

On June 17, 1993, (letter from Shelor to Holonich), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) advised the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission of its plans to develop a topical report discussing the use of data collected through site characterization activities to assess the hazard from vibratory ground motion and fault displacement. That letter laid out six areas that will be addressed by the topical report and provided a brief statement of the scope and contents. In addition, the letter requested that NRC review the proposed scope and description and inform DOE whether or not the proposed report conforms to the guidance provided in the NRC draft Topical Report Review Position Paper.

The information in the DOE letter appears to describe a subject appropriate to be addressed in a topical report, but, based on the information provided, the NRC staff is unable at this time to inform DOE that the report will meet the scope and content requirements for a topical report. The NRC staff believes that the information provided by DOE is not detailed enough for it to make such a decision. In order for the NRC staff to determine whether or not the subject is appropriate for a topical report, the scope and description of contents should be provided in an annotated outline format similar to DOE's previous submittal on erosion rates at Yucca Mountain. The staff plans to revise the draft Topical Report Position Paper before its finalization to more explicitly state the above position on the proposed scope and description of contents of topical reports.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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If you have any questions related to this letter or the Topical Report Position Paper, please contact me (301-504-3387) or Paul Prestholt (301-504-3810) of my staff.

Sincerely,

JS

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

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
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