



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 16, 1995

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Director  
Office of Program Management and Integration  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Milner:

SUBJECT: IN-FIELD VERIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF CIVILIAN  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ITS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING  
CONTRACTOR

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Report NRC-VR-95-01 of the in-field verification of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and its Management and Operating Contractor (M&O). The verification was conducted from April 3-6, 1995, at the DOE and M&O offices in Las Vegas, Nevada and at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The verification evaluated the DOE/M&O compliance with commitments made in the DOE letter of November 14, 1994, to the NRC (Dreyfus to Bernero). This in-field verification, in conjunction with NRC staff observation of the operation of the tunnel boring machine and DOE audits YM-ARP-95-02 and HQ-ARC-95-04, completes Phase 2 of the NRC staff's effort to determine the acceptability of the information provided and the acceptability of implementation of DOE/M&O commitments made in DOE's November 14, 1994, letter.

There were effectively three recommendations resulting from the in-field verification. These were: 1) that numerical modeling of rock bolts be expanded to include all pertinent types and applications, 2) that AP-6.14, currently being revised, be clarified regarding reportable conditions, and 3) that DOE/M&O re-evaluate the quality classification of pre-cast concrete inverts. Two other recommendations were acceptably resolved during the verification.

The verification team commended DOE/M&O for initiating a "Design Guidelines" document that appears to be a good addition to the M&O design process.

The NRC staff finds that, within the scope of the NRC's Phase 2 activities, DOE/M&O compliance with commitments is satisfactory. Open Items in the NRC letter of October 13, 1994, to DOE - Bernero to Dreyfus - have been reduced in scope based on the results of this in-field verification. The team's three recommendations will be followed-up as part of the Phase 3 activities described in the NRC letter of March 9, 1995, to DOE - Bernero to Dreyfus.

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Ronald A. Milner

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A written response to this letter or its enclosures is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

*John O. Thoma for*

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
High-Level Waste & Uranium Recovery  
Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada  
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau  
W. Barnes, YMPO  
C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, DC  
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV  
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV  
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV  
D. Weigel, GAO  
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV  
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA  
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV  
W. Cameron, White Pine County, NV  
R. Williams, Lander County, NV  
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV  
J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV  
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV  
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV  
W. Barnard, NWTRB  
R. Holden, NCAI  
A. Menendez, NIEC  
S. Brocoum, YMPO  
R. Arnold, Pahrump, NV  
M. Stellavato, Nye County, NV  
R. Callan, Michigan PUC

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- 2 -

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Sincerely,  
Original Signed by John Thoma for:  
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\* See previous concurrence

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