



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

July 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment and HLW Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

FROM: William L. Belke, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative for Quality Assurance and Engineered Systems

Chad J. Glenn, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative for Natural Systems and Total Systems

SUBJECT: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON-SITE
LICENSING REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT ON YUCCA
MOUNTAIN PROJECT FOR JUNE 1996

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission On-Site Representative's (OR's) report for the period of June 1-30, 1996. This OR report has been reformatted to more closely resemble the NRC Inspection Report format delineated in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0610.

The principal purpose of the OR reports is to alert NRC staff, managers and contractors to information on U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs for site characterization, repository design, performance assessment, and environmental studies that may be of use in fulfilling NRC's role during pre-licensing consultation. The principal focus of this and future OR reports will be on DOE's programs for the Exploratory Studies Facility, (ESF) surface-based testing, performance assessment, data management systems and environmental studies. Relevant information includes new technical data, DOE's plans and schedules, and the status of activities to pursue site suitability and ESF development. In addition to communication of this information, any potential licensing concerns, or opinions raised in this report represent the views of the ORs and not that of NRC headquarters' staff.

During this reporting period, the ORs continued to monitor the actions being taken by the DOE Office of Quality Assurance to resolve problems identified with the implementation of the U.S. Geological Survey Quality Assurance Program. These problems were reported in detail in the NRC April/May 1996, OR report.

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In this report, the ORs have also identified a concern with the reduction of site characterization activities under the study plan "Characterization of the Yucca Mountain Saturated Zone Hydrochemistry." The information originally planned to be collected under this study plan was designed to characterize the flux and degree of mixing in the upper part of the saturated zone. The absence of this type of information could adversely impact DOE's ability to characterize the upper part of the saturated zone and limit its ability to take credit for dilution. The ORs also intend to monitor how major changes to DOE's site characterization program are documented.

If you have any questions on this report or its enclosures, please call William L. Belke or Chad J. Glenn on (702) 388-6125.

cc w/enclosures as stated:

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