



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

August 8, 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 *WLB*

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

SUBJECT: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON-SITE
LICENSING REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT ON YUCCA
MOUNTAIN PROJECT FOR JULY 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 July 1-31, 1996.

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, key technical issue resolution, 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, and June 1996, OR reports. Information is also provided on the DOE trending

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program, proposed Quality Assurance organization consolidation effort, DOE document hierarchy, and problems identified during a surveillance for the collection of core samples by Los Alamos National Laboratory within the ESF.

The ORs continue to monitor ESF and surface-based testing activities. In the ESF, final preparations continue for the planned start up of the single-element heater test in August 1996. Investigators also plan to initiate an important surface-based tracer test in August 1996. This test will involve the simultaneous injection of different types of tracers and microspheres to compare transport properties in the saturated zone. Section 5.0 of this report also identifies several recently issued documents that may have a bearing on NRC Key Technical Issues.

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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