



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

September 18, 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 *WLB*
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SUBJECT: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON-SITE
LICENSING REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT ON YUCCA
MOUNTAIN PROJECT FOR AUGUST 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 August 1-31, 1996.

The principal objective 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.

Over this reporting period, the ORs met with DOE and M&O
management, technical, and quality assurance (QA) personnel to
better understand DOE's methodology and process for qualifying
existing technical data in accordance with the NRC guidance
provided in NUREG-1298, "Qualification of Existing Data for High-
Level Nuclear Waste Repositories." Existing data is defined as
data developed prior to implementation of a Title 10 of the Code
of Federal Regulations, Subpart 60 QA program. To date, only two
types of data have been qualified by DOE namely, data for the
Extreme Erosion Study and Borehole Geophysical Data. DOE is
developing plans to qualify other data which may surface as a

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result of the development of the DOE Synthesis Reports. For this exercise on the qualification of existing data, the ORs focused on DOE's Borehole Geophysical Data qualification process. The results and conclusions of the OR exercise are contained in Section 4 of this report.

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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