

November 15, 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 OCTOBER 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 October 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, 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.

The ORs continue to monitor ESF and surface-based testing activities. In the ESF, activities continue to focus on the excavation of the Thermal Alcove Facility Connecting Drift which will eventually lead to the Heated Drift Test area, and the excavation of the Northern and Southern Ghost Dance Fault Alcoves. An important surface-based tracer test was initiated at the C-Hole Complex over this reporting period. This report also identifies several recently completed Yucca Mountain Project documents that may have a bearing on NRC Key Technical Issues.

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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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