



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

April 9, 1997

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 MARCH 1997

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 March 1-31, 1997.

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. The ESF activities include: geologic mapping and  
sampling; data gathering on the Single Element Heater Test, and  
ongoing work to prepare for the Heated Drift Test in Alcove 5;  
data gathering on the Ghost Dance Fault in Alcoves 6 and 7; and  
the initiation of planning for the construction of an East-West  
Drift. Surface-based activities include: data gathering on the  
Large Block Heater Test at Fran Ridge; pneumatic monitoring in  
boreholes; saturated zone tracer testing at the C-Hole Complex;

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and planning for drilling two new boreholes in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain.

Bill Belke attended the Spring meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Committee on Nuclear Quality Assurance in Houston, Texas, on March 24-25, 1997. Meetings with the ORs and DOE QA Director and staff have been initiated for the purpose of resolving QA open items.

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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