



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 29, 1997

Dr. Stephan J. Brocoum, Assistant  
Manager for Licensing  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization  
Project Office  
P.O. Box 30307  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

**SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
COMMENTS ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MINED GEOLOGIC  
DISPOSAL SYSTEM LICENSE APPLICATION ANNOTATED OUTLINE,  
CHAPTER 10, QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Dear Mr. Brocoum:

This letter responds to your March 21, 1997, letter to J. Thoma regarding the two U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission questions and one comment expressed in the NRC August 15, 1995, letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) from J. Holonich to R. Milner. The NRC questions and comment resulted from the preliminary NRC evaluation of the DOE's "Mined Geologic Disposal License Application Annotated Outline" (LAAO) for Chapter 10.0, "Quality Assurance" (QA).

In the March 21, 1997, letter, you request closure of these open items due to changes in program direction and termination of LAAO development. It is also explained that contingent upon completion of the viability assessment and a positive site recommendation by the Secretary of Energy, DOE will develop a repository license application, and information from the LAAO may be used in this application. DOE further committed to use the NRC guidance in effect at the time of the license application is developed to demonstrate compliance of the QA program with 10 CFR Part 60, SubPart G.

Based on this commitment, the NRC will close these open issues. However, DOE should be aware that, although 10 CFR Part 60 will be modified to implement the EPA standards, NRC does not expect the specific requirements for QA to change. Therefore, when DOE prepares the license application, the NRC expects the subject matter expressed in the NRC questions and comment to be addressed in equivalent detail.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact William Belke of my staff at (702) 388-6125.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Michael J. Bell, Chief  
Performance Assessment and High Level Waste  
Integration Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

- cc: R. Milner, OCRWM
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