

MAR 29 1990

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
for Systems Integration and Regulations
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the summary for the March 6, 1990, NRC-DOE Technical Exchange on DOE's evaluation of a geophysical anomaly near the Site Characterization Plan's (SCP) site of the exploratory shaft facility (ESF) for the Yucca Mountain, Nevada proposed high-level waste (HLW) repository. The purpose of the exchange was to discuss the advantages and limitations of the methods and approaches used by DOE in its evaluation of the anomaly and to consider the recommendations made in DOE's report based upon those methods and approaches. The State of Nevada was a participant in this exchange.

Should you have any questions on the enclosure, please contact King Stablein (FTS 492-0446) of my staff.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, CAO

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SUMMARY OF NRC-DOE TECHNICAL EXCHANGE
ON ESF GEOPHYSICAL ANOMALY
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW
March 6, 1990
Washington, D.C.

Agenda: See Attachment 1.

List of Attendees: See Attachment 2.

Summary:

On March 6, 1990, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a technical exchange on DOE's evaluation of a geophysical anomaly near the Site Characterization Plan's (SCP) site of the exploratory shaft facility (ESF) for the Yucca Mountain, Nevada proposed high-level waste (HLW) repository. The purpose of the exchange was to discuss the advantages and limitations of the methods and approaches used by DOE in its evaluation of the anomaly and to consider the recommendations made in DOE's report based upon those methods and approaches. DOE representatives led discussions concerning: (1) geologic and geophysical evidence of faulting near the ESF; (2) potential impacts on repository performance and on ESF constructability of faults near the ESF; and (3) recommendations in DOE's report. The State of Nevada participated in this exchange.

DOE suggested that the information provided in its report on the anomaly might be sufficient to close out at some future date NRC's Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) comment 127 concerning potential faults near the SCP's ESF site. NRC considered that the exchange was useful in that it clarified DOE's basis for possible resolution of that comment and, in addition, that the discussions on the methods and approaches used in the evaluation of the anomaly could be beneficial as DOE does other evaluations during site characterization. The representative of the State of Nevada indicated that the main benefit of the exchange for the State was DOE's recognition that it needs better data integration during site characterization. The State also reiterated its recommendation for a site visit to examine the field evidence supporting DOE's evaluation of the anomaly.

King Stablein 3/29/90
King Stablein, Sr. Project Manager
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Steven H. Rossi 3/29/90
Steven H. Rossi
Licensing Branch
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy

**DOE-NRC TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON THE ESF GEOPHYSICAL
ANOMALY TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

March 6, 1990

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

RM 1E-245, Forrestal Bldg., Washington, DC

PURPOSE: To discuss the DOE evaluation of the geophysical anomaly near the ESF site using as a reference the DOE Technical Assessment Review (TAR) on the geologic and geophysical evidence pertaining to structural geology in the vicinity of the proposed Exploratory Shaft.

SCOPE: This technical exchange will concentrate on the technical methods and approaches used to address the assessment of the geophysical anomaly near the ESF. Additionally, discussion will include a consideration of the limitations of the methods used and how these limitations affected the recommendations made. The product of the TAR includes reviews of data collected in the vicinity of the proposed Exploratory Shaft pertaining to (1) observations or interpretations of faults through Coyote Wash and (2) possible impacts on repository performance and Exploratory Shaft constructability due to potential faults. Discussions will also address recommendations of the TAR development team.

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION LEADER

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| o Opening remarks | DOE, NRC, State |
| o Introduction | DOE |
| o Background, Scope, Conduct of Review | DOE |
| Discussion | all |
| o Geologic evidence of faulting in Coyote Wash | DOE |
| Discussion | all |
| o Geophysical evidence for faulting in Coyote Wash | DOE |
| Discussion | all |
| o Performance impacts of potential faults | DOE |
| Discussion | all |
| o Exploratory Shaft constructability impacts of potential faults | DOE |
| Discussion | all |
| o Summary of Recommendation | DOE |
| o Closing remarks | DOE, NRC, State |

DOE/NRC Techn. Exchange on the ESF Biophysical
Anomaly Technical Assessment Review
March 6, 1990
Washington, DC

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