



**Department of Energy**  
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Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
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**MAY 12 1998**

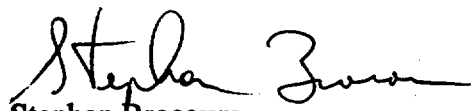
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSE TO U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION TO ISSUE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT (KEY TECHNICAL  
ISSUE CONTAINER LIFE AND SOURCE TERM)**

We have reviewed the subject Issue Resolution Status Report and concur with the status of the issue as indicated in the report. The report indicates that the "dry oxidation of overpack material" component of the "effects of corrosion" subissue of the Container Life and Source Term Key Technical Issue (KTI) is resolved at the staff level. We agree that dry oxidation has an insignificant effect on container lifetimes. Therefore, unless evidence of incipient intergranular oxidation is revealed, there is no need to consider dry oxidation in evaluating expected container lifetimes.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Issue Resolution Status Report and participate in the resolution of this subissue. We look forward to additional progress in resolving the remaining issues within this KTI. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact David C. Haught at (702) 794-5474 or April V. Gil at (702) 794-5578.

  
Stephan Brocoum  
Assistant Manager for Licensing

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