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MAY 24 1990

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QA: N/A

Robert R. Loux, Jr.
Executive Director
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REQUEST FOR AUTOMATED WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENT RECORDS

In your letter of April 3, 1990, you indicated your concern that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have not yet provided you with corrected water level measurements from the period 1983 to January 1987. As I explained in my letter of December 1989, the corrections to the data you requested are projected to be available in June of this year. As soon as the corrections are complete, you will receive copies of the data.

You also stated that automated water level measurements collected by the USGS had been presented at a meeting of the American Institute of Hydrology. My staff have reviewed the slides used in that presentation; they show uncorrected automated water level measurements from two wells, USW H-5 and USW G-3. The data for USW H-5 were from January 1989, and the data from USW G-3 were from March 1990; both data sets were presented graphically as raw transducer voltages in terms of millivolts versus time. These data sets were used by the speaker to illustrate the problems associated with automated recording networks. Such problems included instrument drift, instrument failure, and anomalous readings; all of which are inherent in setting up a network of deep hole measuring devices. When the data from these wells has been corrected, it will be made available by the USGS in the form of a data report. You will receive copies of all USGS data reports.

I, too, believe that information should be freely exchanged between the DOE, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Nevada. I am also aware, as you are, of the problems associated with release of uncorrected data. The DOE is committed to producing and distributing a catalog of available data at least quarterly. The system to monitor all data acquisition on the project and publish a listing of that data should be operational this year. Data listed in the catalog will be available for inspection in accordance with the DOE/NRC Site Specific Agreement; hard copies of the data will generally be available after quality checks have been completed.

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Claudia M. Newbury, of my staff, is the Technical Data Manager for the Yucca Mountain Project. I have asked her to contact your office and provide you with additional information, or a presentation, about the management and availability of project technical data. Presentations on this subject by Maxwell B. Blanchard, Robert V. Barton, and Ms. Newbury, to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and the NRC have been quite well received. I would also urge you to make available to the DOE and NRC, information about the data and analyses generated by your staff and contractors. The monitoring system currently under development could be easily modified to display that information for the benefit of all parties.

If you have any questions, please contact Claudia M. Newbury at (702) 794-7942.

Carl P. Gertz, Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Project Office

YMP:CMN-3299

cc:
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Robert Browning, NRC, Washington, DC
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