

August 30, 1998

Mr. Les W. Bradshaw, Manager
Nye County
Department of Natural Resources & Federal Facilities
Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office
1210 E. Basin Road, Suite #6
Pahrump, Nevada 89048

SUBJECT: EARLY WARNING DRILLING PROGRAM: FORMAL REVIEW OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Bradshaw:

This is in response to your letter dated July 22, 1998, requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff complete a formal review of the Nye County Quality Assurance (QA) program. As noted in your letter, the data collected will greatly enhance the ability to effectively model groundwater flow patterns down the gradient from Yucca Mountain; and interest in obtaining such data has been shown by the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, NRC and its contractors, and other Affected Units of Government. The NRC has, therefore, evaluated your request and will conduct a formal review of the Nye County QA program.

It should be noted however, that the NRC staff does not intend to perform inspections, audits, or observation audits for the implementation of the Nye County QA program. Our review will be limited to determining whether the Nye County QA program contains adequate requirements and controls to address the appropriate criteria of Appendix B to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 50. William Belke, of my staff, will contact your office directly to make arrangements for the review.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Dr. Michael Bell, of my staff, at (301) 415-7286.

Sincerely,
[Original signed by:]
John T. Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

TICKET: DWM-980123

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