

SEP 17 1992

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 1992, TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

Enclosed are the minutes of the June 3, 1992, Nuclear Regulatory Commission/ Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Exchange on DOE's Repository Annotated Outline (AO) and Draft Regulatory Guide DG-3003, "Format and Content for the License Application for the High-Level Waste Repository." While the information exchanged at this interaction represented significant progress toward a clearer understanding by all parties of the appropriate role of the AO during the preclicensing consultation period, the NRC staff had several concerns that were not addressed during that meeting. Subsequently, you transmitted to me "Annotated Outlines for Preparation of License Applications and Their Relationship to the DOE Issues Resolution and the NRC/DOE Licensing Processes," a statement prepared in response to requests made by the staff at the June 3, 1992, Technical Exchange and at a February 6, 1992, NRC/DOE Management Meeting. While that statement is currently being reviewed, it appears to resolve several of the staff's outstanding concerns. The staff will provide its comments on that statement separately, after the review is completed.

At the Technical Exchange, the NRC staff reiterated its position that the focus of its reviews during preclicensing is on the review of programs, plans, assumptions, interpretations, and methodologies, not on the adequacy of compliance with 10 CFR Part 60. It was not clear that the DOE representatives were in agreement with the staff on this fundamental point. However, at the June 24, 1992, briefing to the Commission by Dr. John W. Bartlett, Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Dr. Bartlett agreed with NRC's position during his exchange with the Commission on the meaning and limitations of issue closure during the preclicensing consultation period.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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If you wish to discuss any issues related to the June 3, 1992, Technical Exchange, you can contact me at (301) 504-3387.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by



for

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV
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