

May 25, 1999

Dr. Stephan J. Brocoum
Assistant Manager for Licensing
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REVIEW OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S STRUCTURAL DEFORMATION AND SEISMICITY ISSUE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT, REVISION 1

Dear Dr. Brocoum:

This responds to your May 11, 1999, letter on the above subject. You have provided clear and timely comments that bear on the resolution of the subissue associated specifically with tectonic models discussed in Revision 1 of the Structural Deformation and Seismicity (SDS) Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR). Except as described in the following paragraph, you anticipated correctly that we will address your comments in Revision 2 of the SDS IRSR; Revision 2 of the SDS IRSR is scheduled for completion August 27, 1999.

Your last comment, No. 9, is a brief summary of how fracture and fault data are incorporated in hydrologic flow and radionuclide transport models at various scales. We will consider this comment in conjunction with your written comments on the IRSR on Unsaturated & Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions, Rev. 1. We understand that those will be sent to us shortly. We also provided relevant comments in our review of the U.S. Department of Energy's Viability Assessment (SECY-99-074, Attachment 1, pages 6 and 9, et seq; available on the Internet).

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Philip S. Justus at (301) 415-6745, psj@nrc.gov, or David Brooks at (301) 415-7284, djb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

C.W. Reamer, Chief
High-Level Waste and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

WM-11
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cc: See attached list

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cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Frishman, State of Nevada
L. Barrett, DOE/Wash, DC
A. Brownstein, DOE/Wash, DC
S. Hanauer, DOE/Wash, DC
C. Einberg, DOE/Wash, DC
S. Rousso, DOE/Wash, DC
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J. Lyznicky, AMA
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S. Kraft, NEI
J. Kessler, EPRI
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