

MEMORANDUM TO:

Michael J. Bell, Acting Chief
Performance Assessment and HLW Interim Management Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

March 26, 1999

FROM:

William L. Belke, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
Quality Assurance and Engineered Systems
Chad J. Glenn, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
Natural Systems and Total Systems

SUBJECT:

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON-SITE
LICENSING REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT ON YUCCA
MOUNTAIN PROJECT FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1998
AND JANUARY 1999

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) On-Site Representative's (OR's) report for the period of November 1, 1998, through January 31, 1999.

The principal purpose of the OR reports is to alert NRC staff, managers and contractors to information on U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs for site characterization, repository design, performance assessment, and environmental studies that may be of use in fulfilling NRC's role during pre-licensing consultation. The principal focus of this and future OR reports will be on DOE's programs for the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF), surface-based testing, performance assessment, data management systems and environmental studies. Relevant information includes new technical data, DOE's plans and schedules, and the status of activities to pursue site suitability and ESF development. The ORs also participate in activities associated with resolving NRC Key Technical Issues (KTIs). In addition to communication of this information, any potential licensing concerns, or opinions raised in this report represent the views of the ORs.

Due to the holiday season and vacation schedules, for reporting purposes, this report will be a combined report for the months of November-December 1998, and January 1999. This report highlights a number of Yucca Mountain Project activities of potential interest to NRC staff. The ORs continue to respond to requests from NRC Headquarters staff to provide various documentation and feedback related to KTIs and their resolution. During this reporting period, the ORs continue to observe activities associated with Yucca Mountain Site Characterization, KTIs, and auditing. The ORs also attended a number of meetings and accompanied NRC staff on visits to Yucca Mountain.

If you have any questions on this report or its enclosures, please call William L. Belke on (702) 794-5047 or Chad J. Glenn on (702) 794-5046.

Enclosures: As stated

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