



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing & Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

This letter is in response to a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) request made at the 90 percent Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) design review. The subject of how best to report changes in ESF design to the NRC staff was discussed. NRC participants stated the desire to be informed of significant changes in ESF design so that the staff would be aware of them. U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) staff in attendance stated that a means to accommodate this request would be identified.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) intends to use the Site Characterization Progress Report as the means to notify NRC of changes in ESF design. At the end of any given reporting period, DOE staff involved in compiling this document will determine if any revisions have been made to study plans and if any Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) Change Control Board (CCB) actions have changed the Site Characterization Program Baseline (SCPB) document. YMPO will expand this inquiry to include any changes made to the ESF Design Summary Report and the ESF Design Requirements document. As with the SCPB, these two design documents are baselined and require action by the CCB to change them. They also contain the most significant aspects of the configuration for the ESF. Changes to these documents would be significant enough to apprise the NRC on a routine basis.

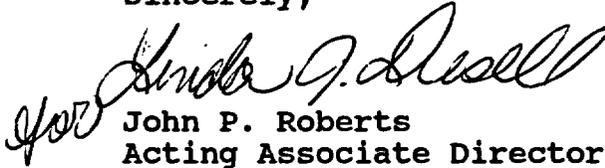
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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris Einberg of my office at 202-586-8869.

Sincerely,



John P. Roberts
Acting Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:
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cc:
C. Gertz, YMPO
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