

MAR 16 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: USE OF ROCK-WATER SAMPLING DEVICE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research has requested permission to use a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) rock-water sampling device for the purpose of obtaining water samples from Apache Leap Tuff site core. To date, this request has been coordinated with Dr. Al Yang, USGS and Yucca Mountain Project Investigator, and requires the assistance of your office as the laboratory apparatus was purchased with U.S. Department of Energy funds.

During the recent University of Arizona "Workshop on Flow and Transport in Unsaturated Fractured Rock," Dr. Randy Bassett of the University of Arizona (UAZ) and his student, Gregg Davidson, discussed with Dr. Yang the possibility of using his uni-axial compression system for pore-fluid extraction. Following these tentative-agreement discussions, the NRC staff and management discussed the proposal and found it acceptable.

Prior to its use, Mr. Davidson proposes to visit Dr. Yang at the USGS laboratory in Denver for approximately one week to be instructed in the use and safeguards of the system. He would return to the UAZ with a compression cell. Upon completion of the pore-fluid extraction studies in late Summer 1993, the laboratory apparatus would be returned to Dr. Yang's laboratory at UAZ expense.

This request has been coordinated with the NRC Research Project Manager, Thomas J. Nicholson, (301) 492-3856 and Dr. Randy Bassett and Gregg Davidson, UAZ (602) 621-6215. We look forward to your assistance in facilitating the loan of this laboratory apparatus.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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If you have any questions related to this request, you may contact Mr. Nicholson at the above number.

Sincerely,

JSI

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

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
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- E. Holstein, Nye County, NV.
- R. Bassett, Univ. of Arizona
- G. Davidson, Univ. of Arizona

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