



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

JUN 30 1992

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

References: (1) Ltr, Holonich to Roberts, dtd 5/7/92  
(2) Ltr, Holonich to Roberts, dtd 4/27/92  
(3) Ltr, Holonich to Roberts, dtd 4/27/92  
(4) Ltr, Holonich to Roberts, dtd 3/26/92

Dear Mr. Holonich:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has recently received the results of Phase I reviews for the following:

1. Study Plan 8.3.1.2.2.7, "Hydrochemical Characterization of the Unsaturated Zone" (Reference 1).
2. Study Plan 8.3.1.3.2.2, History of Mineralogic and Geochemical Alteration of Yucca Mountain" (Reference 2).
3. Study Plan 8.3.1.5.1.2, "Paleoclimate Study: Lake, Playa, and Marsh Deposits" (Reference 3).
4. Study Plan 8.3.1.2.2.3, "Characterization of Percolation in the Unsaturated Zone-Surface-Based Study" (Reference 4).

In transmittal letters for these reviews, the following request is made for each study plan in the second paragraph of each letter, "The NRC staff requests that the procedures, methods, and other relevant details be provided to NRC for its review as soon as that information is available."

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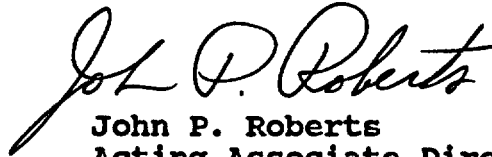
The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) staff responsible for acting upon these requests do not know what additional information NRC is requesting in the ambiguous phrase, "methods and other relevant information," that is not already supplied in the study plan.

It would help DOE be more responsive if NRC deleted this ambiguous phrase and requested specific information. We cannot respond to the request as written.

YMPO also suggests that NRC request copies of procedures through DOE/HQ Regulatory Integration Branch.

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:  
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