



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUL 22 1992

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

Dear Mr. Holonich:

On June 29, 1992, at about 3:14 a.m. Pacific daylight time, an earthquake of magnitude 5.6 occurred in the Yucca Mountain region. Enclosure 1, which was transmitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on June 29, provided preliminary information from the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Earthquake Information Center, and the University of Nevada at Reno. The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) evaluated this condition by implementing YMPO Administrative Procedure (AP) 6.14, Reportable Geologic Conditions (enclosure 2). This condition was evaluated as not being significant when evaluated in accordance with the significance criteria of AP-6.14. However, we recognize that the earthquake was significant in a more general sense. It is the third largest earthquake to be documented in southern Nevada, and was widely publicized in the local news and press. Therefore, enclosed is our evaluation of the condition and resulting actions we plan to initiate (enclosure 3).

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Einberg of my staff at (202) 586-8869.

Sincerely,

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

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Enclosures:

1. June 29, 1992, Preliminary Notification to NRC
2. YMPO AP-6.14, Reportable Geologic Conditions
3. Evaluation of Seismic Activity in the Yucca Mountain Region on June 29, 1992

cc: w/ enclosures:

- C. Gertz, YMPO
- T. Bjerstedt, YMPO
- K. Hooks, NRC
- R. Loux, State of Nevada
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- J. Bingham, Clark County, NV
- B. Raper, Nye County, NV
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- G. Derby, Lander County, NV
- P. Goicoechea, Eureka, NV
- C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
- F. Mariani, White Pine County, NV
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- E. Wright, Lincoln County, NV
- J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
- M. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA

* PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON 6/29/92 EARTHQUAKE FROM USGS EARTHQUAKE
INFORMATION CENTER IN GOLDEN, CO, AND FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO

TIME: 3:14 AM PDT

MAGNITUDE: 5.6

DEPTH: 12 km

LOCATION: 17 mi west of Mercury

14 mi southeast of Yucca Mountain

5 mi east of Lathrop Wells, town of

36 37' north

116 10' west

Near Rock Valley

* As a result of subsequent data analysis, the epicenter has been moved somewhat,
as shown in Enclosure 3.