

JC/NOTE TO DOE/OTHERS ON ESF

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JUL 17 1990

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director  
for Systems Integration and Regulations  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, RW-30  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Stein:

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT TECHNICAL POSITION ON REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS  
IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPLORATORY SHAFT FACILITY

The purpose of this letter is to provide a copy of the "Draft Technical Position (TP) on Regulatory Considerations in the Design and Construction of the Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF)" to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) the State of Nevada, and the affected units of local government. A notice of availability of the draft TP is now being published in the Federal Register, with a public comment period of 75 days. I am providing a copy concurrently with the publication of the Federal Register notice, to ensure that the program participants have the maximum time available to consider it.

The NRC's Division of High-Level Waste Management is issuing the draft TP to provide regulatory guidance to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on an approach acceptable to the NRC staff for consideration of requirements in 10 CFR Part 60 related to the ESF for a potential high-level radioactive waste repository. It is a compilation of previous NRC staff positions on this subject. The TP covers topics that include certain aspects of the design control process, coordination of ESF design with design of the geologic repository operations area (GROA), consideration of alternatives, excavation methods, test interference, and site characterization. The positions and discussion in this TP are based on the premise that the ESF will eventually become a part of a future GROA. Therefore,

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all 10 CFR Part 60 requirements applicable to the GROA design are considered applicable to the ESF design. This TP also gives the specific guidelines by which the NRC can assess DOE's work on the ESF design and documents related thereto.

If you have any questions on the enclosed draft TP, please contact Michael Lee, the Project Manager at 301/FTS 492-0421.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management, NMSS

Enclosure:  
As Stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- W. Barnard, NWTRB

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\*See previous concurrence

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Date:	07/09/90	:07/11/90	:07/11/90	:	:	:

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Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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