

6/90 QPR TO BARTLETT

AUG 15 1990

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Dr. John W. Bartlett, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, RW-1
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Bartlett:

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF THE NRC STAFF QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
PRE-LICENSING PHASE OF THE CIVILIAN HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Enclosed for your information is a copy of SECY-90-032B, the "Quarterly Progress Report on the Pre-Licensing Phase of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Civilian High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Program." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff prepares Quarterly Progress Reports in order to provide the Commission with an assessment of progress being made on key aspects of the NRC and the DOE pre-licensing consultation program. This report covers the period from April 1990 through June 1990.

The most significant staff concern noted in this Quarterly Progress Report was in regard to the number of NRC-DOE interactions that were missed during this reporting period. However, after this Quarterly Progress Report was written, on July 19, 1990, our staffs held the first in a series of monthly management meetings. The NRC staff's concern about the number of missed interactions was one of the items discussed. This discussion led to agreement on the importance of interactions and that future interactions need to better focus on resolving the issues identified in the Site Characterization Analysis (SCA).

Our staffs then met on July 31, 1990 to discuss and schedule interactions through November 1990 that will focus on resolving the issues identified in the SCA. Besides those interactions for which firm dates have been established, DOE also indicated that it expects to provide the staff with its SCA responses in November 1990 and anticipates that a December 1990 meeting would be beneficial.

Although progress is being made in scheduling more productive interactions, DOE and NRC management need to ensure that these interactions take place and focus on resolving the SCA issues.

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Please feel free to contact John J. Linehan, of my staff, if you have any questions. Mr. Linehan can be reached on (301) 492-3387 or FTS 492-3387.

Sincerely,

~~(Signed)~~ Robert M. Bernero

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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