

DEC 09 1993

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

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 1993, TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON SEISMIC  
HAZARDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the summary for the November 17, 1993, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission/U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) technical exchange on seismic hazards assessment. The technical exchange was also attended by representatives of the State of Nevada and Nye and Clark Counties, Nevada. The purpose of the technical exchange was to discuss the contents of a DOE topical report (TR) on seismic hazard methodologies prior to DOE's transmittal of that report to NRC.

On October 20, 1993 (letter from Holonich to Shelor) the NRC staff provided the results of its review of the annotated outline (AO) of the DOE TR, "Seismic Hazards Methodology for Yucca Mountain," and stated that the subject of the AO appeared to qualify as a suitable topic for a TR. Although it appears that the proposed TR topic still qualifies as suitable for a TR, the NRC staff is concerned that the AO it reviewed may not present an accurate picture of the TR. Specifically, based on discussions by DOE representatives at the November 17 technical exchange it appears that the scope of the TR and approach DOE presented in the AO have been modified and information relevant to seismic hazard evaluation will be presented in a series of three TRs. In addition, it appears that some subjects listed in the AO may now not be addressed in the TR to be transmitted to the NRC for its review (e.g., positions taken in the draft NRC Staff Technical Position on "Consideration of Fault Displacement Hazard in Repository Design").

The staff recognizes that in the course of writing a TR it may not always be possible, due to changes in information, methods, or information needs, to strictly adhere to the relevant AO. In future cases of this type, the staff recommends that DOE formally notify the NRC of any changes in scope prior to completion of the TR. This will allow the NRC staff the opportunity to evaluate whether or not a revised AO may be necessary. In the case of the "Seismic Hazards Methodology for Yucca Mountain," the staff will reevaluate the bases for its decision regarding the appropriateness of the topic during its acceptance review of the report.

The enclosed technical exchange summary lists concerns of State of Nevada and NRC that are related to the content of the TR. DOE should consider these comments prior to the completion of the TR and address those comments in the report or its transmittal letter.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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If you have any questions regarding this letter or the technical exchange summary, please contact Ms. Charlotte Abrams of my staff at (301) 504-3403.

Sincerely,

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C. William Reamer, Acting Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance  
Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated *on the shelf*

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Mariani, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
- J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
- C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
- L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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