



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

APR 24 1991

Mr. John Linehan, 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, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

On January 25, 1991, we transmitted for your information a copy of the Record Memorandum that documents the results of the Calico Hills Risk Benefit Analysis. The analysis was performed to provide the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, with information necessary for any reconsideration of a DOE decision concerning penetration of the Calico Hills Unit.

Such reconsideration was prompted when the NRC expressed a formal objection to the DOE's original plans for penetration of the Calico Hills Unit for the purpose of characterization, as described in the Site Characterization Plan/Consultation Draft. In reviewing the Site Characterization Plan, the NRC considered that the objection was resolved on the basis of the DOE's commitment to conduct the risk-benefit analysis that is documented in the Record Memorandum.

The Calico Hills Risk-Benefit Analysis explicitly considered the comments provided by the NRC as part of their original objection. The DOE believes that the results of this evaluation provide an adequate basis for decisions regarding the plans and design of a facility for characterizing the Calico Hills Unit. Because of the relationship of this analysis to the design of the Exploratory Study Facility, it would be appropriate for you to consider and prepare to provide comments on the information provided in the Record Memorandum at the upcoming Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Energy Technical Exchange meeting on design control, scheduled for May 24, 1991.

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If you have any questions regarding the enclosure, please contact Linda Desell of my staff at (202) 586-1462.

Sincerely,



Dwight Shelor
Acting Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

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