

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUL 23 1991

Mr. John J. Linehan, Acting 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. Linehan:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), by subcontract to Lang Exploratory Drilling, has initiated a performance test of the LM-300 Drill Rig and Pipe Handling System as of July 15, 1991. The test is scheduled for 3 weeks (July 15-August 2, 1991) and will run 12 hours a day, 5 days a week. A 2,000-foot borehole will be drilled as part of this operational test. In addition, several hundred feet of core will be acquired as part of the test.

The proposed location is on the Barrick Resources Corporation Mercur Gold Mine, approximately 35 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah. Information collected during this test will be applied to future drilling and coring procedures that are in support of site characterization for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project.

Those interested in scheduling a site visit or being placed on the distribution list to receive daily (morning) reports during field operations should notify Loren E. "Bud" Thompson of Science Applications International Corporation by facsimile at (702) 794-7008 (FTS 544-7008).

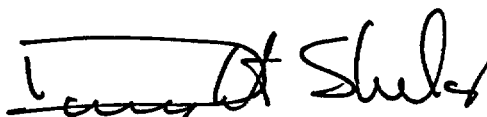
Detailed information on suggested travel and lodging will be provided upon registration for a site visit.

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Due to delays in mail handling, this notice is "after the fact."
DOE regrets any inconvenience to NRC. Should you have any
questions, please contact Sharon Skuchko of my office at
(202) 586-4590.

Sincerely,



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

cc:

C. Gertz, YMPO
R. Loux, State of Nevada
K. Whipple, Lincoln County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
J. Bingham, Clark County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
B. Raper, Nye County, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
R. Campbell, Inyo County, CA
R. Michener, Inyo County, CA
G. Derby, Lander County, NV
P. Goicoechea, Eureka, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
C. Jackson, Mineral County, NV
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
L. Vaughan, Esmeralda County, NV
N. K. Stablein, NRC