



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUN 07 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 purpose of this letter is to inform the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office's (YMPO) intention to perform Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) Title I design reviews during the latter part of June 1991, and again during the fall (August or September) of 1991. The purpose of the two reviews is to evaluate the status of the north access location selection process (June), and to perform a similar review for the remaining access and related matters (August). As currently envisioned, the basis for both reviews will be the regulatory, geologic, and engineering/design considerations appropriate to the scope of the Title I design phase. As you know, more detailed designs derived from Title I will be completed during Title II.

Although detailed schedules have yet to be developed, it is expected that the first review will commence on, or about, June 17, 1991, and will be completed by June 28, 1991. We will keep you apprised of the review plans as they mature. In the meantime, if you believe representatives of the NRC would be interested in observing all or portions of the reviews, we would appreciate it if you would let us know.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Priscilla Bunton at 202-586-8365.

Sincerely,

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

cc:

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