

October 29, 1996

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Director
Program Management and Integration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, RW 30
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 1996, EXPLORATORY STUDIES FACILITY MEETING

Dear Mr. Milner:

Enclosed are the minutes of the September 12, 1996, technical meeting between the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on items of mutual interest regarding the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) Design and Construction. This meeting, convened at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, was held by four-way videoconference at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; DOE offices in Las Vegas, Nevada; NRC offices in Rockville, Maryland; and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) offices in San Antonio, Texas, as one of a continuing series of periodic ESF meetings.

Organizations other than NRC and DOE that were represented at the meeting were the CNWRA; DOE's Management and Operating Contractor (M&O), U.S. Geological Society, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, State of Nevada's Nuclear Waste Project Office and Nuclear Waste Task Force, Nye County, and Weston.

The meeting again resulted in a good exchange of information and views between DOE and NRC. No response to this letter is required. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed meeting minutes, please contact Jack Spraul of my staff. He can be reached at (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,
~~[Original signed by J. Thoma for]~~
John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment and High-Level
Waste Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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Enclosure: As stated
cc: See attached list

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Austin".

John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment and High-Level
Waste Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See attached list

Distribution for letter to Milner dated October 29, 1996

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