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AUG 27 1997

OVERNIGHT MAIL

Michael J. Bell, Chief
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

TOPICAL REPORTS, "METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS FAULT DISPLACEMENT AND VIBRATORY GROUND MOTION HAZARDS AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, REV. 1" AND "PRECLOSURE SEISMIC DESIGN METHODOLOGY FOR A GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, REV. 2"

References: (1) Ltr, Bell to Brocoum, dtd 7/25/96
(2) Ltr, Bell to Brocoum, dtd 3/21/97

In reference 1, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff informed the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that sufficient information exists in various forms to close all comments on the topical report, *Methodology To Assess Fault Displacement And Vibratory Ground Motion Hazards At Yucca Mountain, Rev. 1*, with the understanding that the report would be revised in a manner that reflects the resolution of the comments. The revised report is presented in Enclosure 1. Additional changes to those made specific to the NRC comments were also made to update or improve the clarity of the report. These additional comments are identified in Enclosure 2.

Revision 2 of the companion second seismic topical report, *Preclosure Seismic Design Methodology for a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain*, is Enclosure 3. In reference letter 2, the NRC staff transmitted its comments on Rev. 1 of the subject topical report to the DOE. The staff's comments and recommendations were discussed with the DOE during an Appendix 7 meeting held at NRC offices on February 27, 1997. With the submittal of both of these revised seismic topical reports, it is our understanding that all of the staff's questions regarding these two documents have been addressed and satisfactorily resolved.

We understand that the NRC staff will review the revised topical reports to verify that all comment resolutions have been incorporated. To facilitate your review, we have prepared "road maps" (enclosures 4-5) that identify the location in the document where each NRC staff comment is addressed.

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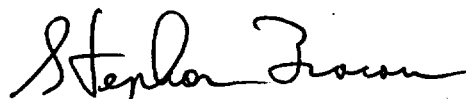
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During fiscal year 1998, the DOE plans to prepare and submit for NRC staff review a third and final seismic topical report that will describe the application of the methodologies of the first two reports to develop the preclosure seismic design basis for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain. We understand that this series of three reports, and other available information, will constitute a sufficient basis for the staff's preparation of a Safety Evaluation Report that addresses repository preclosure seismic design.

If you have additional questions after reviewing this material, please contact either April V. Gil or J. Timothy Sullivan of my staff at (702) 794-5578 or 794-5589.




Stephan J. Brocoum
Assistant Manager for Licensing

AML:AVG-2081

Enclosures:

1. Topical Report YMP/TR-002-NP:
Methodology To Assess Fault Displacement
And Vibratory Ground Motion Hazards At
Yucca Mountain
2. Additional Substantive Changes Made To
Seismic Topical Report No. 1
3. Topical Report YMP/TR-003-NP:
Preclosure Seismic Design Methodology
For A Geologic Repository At Yucca
Mountain
4. Road Map For NRC Comment Resolutions,
Seismic Topical Report No. 1
5. Road Map For NRC Comment Resolution,
Seismic Topical Report No. 2

cc w/encls:



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