

November 30, 1997

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, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 1997, TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

Dear Mr. Milner:

Enclosed are the minutes of the July 30, 1997, technical exchange between the staffs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on DOE's approach for categorizing DOE-owned spent nuclear fuel. The meeting was held in Vienna, Virginia, and was videoconferenced for Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office staff in Las Vegas, Nevada. A list of all attendees is also provided in the enclosure.

The Technical Exchange provided a good overview of DOE's general plans for disposal of all DOE-owned spent fuel. The staff believes that DOE's approach for characterizing and grouping the various types of spent fuel will benefit the performance assessments and criticality analyses of related waste package designs that must ultimately be considered in the planned license application. Consistent with the staff's interest in providing DOE early feedback on waste package design concepts for DOE spent fuel, the staff would like to have focussed meetings in the future on specific fuel types (e.g., Hanford fuel) to discuss DOE's detailed plans for ultimate disposition. In this regard, my staff will take the initiative to schedule these meetings.

No response to this letter is required. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed meeting minutes, please contact Richard Weller of my staff at (301) 415-7287.

Sincerely,

ORIG SIGNED BY:

N. King Stablein, Acting Chief
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See attached list

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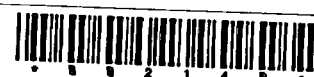
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