



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 20, 1995

James M. Lyznicki, MS, MPH
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Dr. Lyznicki:

I am responding to an August 24, 1995 letter from Dr. James S. Todd, Executive Vice President of the American Medical Association (AMA), to former NRC Chairman Selin. In that letter, Dr. Todd provided an AMA report entitled, "Risks of a High-Level Radioactive Waste Repository," which recommended that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff consider including an appropriate medical representative as a participant, advisor, or consultant in any ongoing committee or meeting activity involving the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

As you probably know, NRC's role in the development of a high level waste repository is limited to evaluating the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) site investigation program at Yucca Mountain to determine if the correct type and amount of data are being collected to support a license application that the NRC would review, developing the NRC capability needed to review such a license application, and conducting the independent research needed to gain a full understanding of the phenomena that are involved in the review of a high-level waste repository. In carrying out these functions, we have not utilized, nor do we intend to create, a special ad hoc HLW advisory group to provide expert advice and recommendations other than our existing Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste.

Most of the NRC work involves the review of DOE documents and familiarization with DOE field activities. All of the information the NRC provides to DOE is publicly available, and all NRC-DOE interactions related to Licensing issues are conducted under NRC's Open Meeting Policy. NRC staff keeps interested members of the public informed of its activities by providing them copies of the NRC products list and the bi-weekly notification of upcoming meetings with DOE. We recognize that you and Dr. Doege have served as the AMA contacts for information on the repository, and would be pleased to keep you routinely informed of NRC activities. My staff will include you on its mailing lists both for upcoming meetings (Enclosure 1), and for notification of products completed in the high-level waste area (Enclosure 2). These items are issued bi-weekly and semi-annually, respectively. Through these, you should be able to gain an overview of NRC activities and can identify any additional information you may want. Copies of the latest versions of these lists are enclosed for your information.

I have also included a general information packet, prepared by DOE, on the aforementioned items on the disposal of high-level nuclear waste (Enclosure 3).

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J. Lyznicki

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As the developer and future operator of the repository, DOE may be able to provide you additional information on its activities concerning the disposal of such waste. You may contact DOE at the following address:

Dr. Daniel E. Dreyfus, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

In addition to the specific information on high-level waste, you may also find the enclosed copy of NRC's 1995 Information Digest to be of interest (Enclosure 4). This document summarizes all NRC activities and should help you better understand NRC and its mission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either me or Mr. Joseph Holonich, Chief, High-Level Waste and Uranium Recovery Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management. I can be reached at (301) 415-7800 and Mr. Holonich can be reached at (301) 415-7238.

Sincerely,
Original signed by Carl J. Paperiello

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Upcoming Meeting Information
2. Products Completed in HLW Area
3. General Information Packet
4. NRC Information Digest

cc: James S. Todd, MD

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DATE	10/06/95		10/06/95		10/06/95		10/06/95		10/ /95
OFC	DEDS		EDO		OCM		Tech. Ed.	C	
NAME	HThompson		JTaylor			EKraus*			
DATE	10/13/95		10/13/95		10/20/95		10/06/95		

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Enclosures: As stated

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