

STABLEIN/KALE II 1/25/88

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Mr. Stephen H. Kale, Associate Director
Office of Geologic Repositories
U.S. Department of Energy
RW-20
Washington, DC 20585

WM Record File

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Dear Mr. Kale:

On January 8, 1988 the NRC received the DOE document entitled Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan Yucca Mountain Site, Nevada Research and Development Area, Nevada. Upon receipt of that document the NRC staff, in accord with the criteria for Acceptance Reviews given in the Draft Technical Review Plan for NRC Staff Review of DOE's Site Characterization Plans and with the procedures specified in the Administrative Plan and Procedures for NRC Staff Review of DOE's Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plans, began its preliminary review to determine the document's acceptability for NRC staff technical review. The NRC staff has completed its preliminary review and concluded that the document is acceptable for NRC staff technical review.

In its review the staff noted two deficiencies that might have occasioned non-acceptance of the document had it been the final Site Characterization Plan (SCP). First, the conclusion in Chapter 8.4 of the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan (CDSCP) that exploratory shaft construction and testing will not adversely affect repository performance is inadequately supported by the material contained in Chapter 8.4 and other parts of the CDSCP. As NRC has previously informed DOE, a substantive analysis of the effects of exploratory shaft construction and testing on waste isolation performance is needed. This analysis is required due to technical linkages among the information on exploratory shaft location, construction, sealing, testing, performance, and quality assurance levels as well as the linkage between exploratory shaft performance and repository system/subsystem performance and preliminary performance allocations. In our January 25, 1988 telephone conversation, you agreed to furnish this document to NRC by the end of February. However, given its arrival seven weeks or more after NRC receipt of the CDSCP, it is unlikely that comments on this document or those portions of the CDSCP supported by this document can be provided when NRC comments are transmitted on the remainder of the CDSCP.

Second, 21 references were missing from the set of references furnished to the NRC shortly after we received the CDSCP. In particular, a key referenced document, the Conceptual Design Report (CDR), which provides supporting detail for Chapter 6 of the CDSCP, SAND84-2641, was not available to NRC staff in its entirety until January 22, two weeks after receipt of the CDSCP. All references must accompany the final SCP.

Notwithstanding these two deficiencies and their impact on NRC staff's ability to review portions of the CDSCP, the NRC staff is proceeding with its technical review of the CDSCP. The staff considers that adequate material is

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available in most technical areas to allow a substantive review and that our comments at this stage should contribute to an improved statutory SCP. If you have any questions concerning the results of the acceptance review, please contact John Linehan (FTS 492-0411) of my staff.

Sincerely,

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Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
C. Gertz, DOE-NV/WMPO

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LETTER TO: Stephen H. Kale, Associate Director
Office of Geologic Repositories
USDOE
Wash., DC

FROM: Robert E. Browning, Director
DHLWM/NMSS

SUBJECT: NRC ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF DOE DOCUMENT ENTITLED CONSULTATION
DRAFT SITE CHARACTERIZATION PLAN YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE, NEVADA
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, NEVADA

DATE:

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RECORD NOTE: This letter was reviewed with J. Wolf, OGC, and his comments were incorporated.

JW