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Mr. Sam Rousso, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Rousso:

In our letter to you dated January 13, 1989 we indicated the likelihood that the NRC acceptance review of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Site Characterization Plan (SCP) for the Yucca Mountain site, scheduled for completion by the end of January, could not be completed in that timeframe if we did not promptly receive the missing SCP supporting documents. The most important of those documents were identified as the Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) design acceptability analysis (DAA) and the five study plans on ESF construction-phase testing. Certain SCP references were also missing. We pointed out that a delay in completion of the acceptance review could affect our overall seven-month Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) schedule.

As of today we have received all but three of the SCP references; however, we have not received the DAA or any of the five study plans. The original period scheduled for completion of the acceptance review is now over, and due to the continuing unavailability of the DAA and study plans, we are unable to make a determination as to the acceptability of the SCP at this time. While our review of the documents received to date has not identified any reason for not accepting the SCP, we cannot make a final determination of acceptability until we have received and conducted a review of the adequacy of the outstanding documents.

When those documents are received and the acceptance review is completed, we will inform you of the results of that review and, if we determine the documents are acceptable, our schedule for further review of the SCP.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please call me (492-0663) or J. Linehan (492-3387).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert M. Bernero, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: C. Gertz, DOE/Nevada
R. Loux, State of Nevada
M. Baughman, Lincoln County
S. Bradhurst, Nye County
D. Bechtel, Clark County

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