

January 13, 1989

LTR ROUSSO

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

Dear Mr. Rousso:

Thank you for your December 28, 1988 letter issuing the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) for the Yucca Mountain site. Although we have also received most of the SCP references from DOE, we have not received: (1) the Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) design acceptability analysis (DAA); (2) the five study plans on ESF construction-phase testing; and (3) certain SCP references (see Enclosure 1). As our SCP review plan indicates, we need these documents to complete our four-week acceptance review of the SCP. We especially suffer from the lack of the DAA and the study plans. However, without all of the missing documents, we cannot conduct an orderly and systematic review of the SCP, and may be unable to complete our acceptance review by the end of January, which, in turn, will likely affect our overall seven-month Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) schedule (see Enclosure 2). If you find it difficult to give us the missing documents soon, please let me know.

As you are aware, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) initial schedule for completing the SCP review was six months, as reflected in the March 1986 Project Decision Schedule (PDS). At the Commission's direction, we have extended our review period to seven months, to include review by both the Commission and the Advisory Committee for Nuclear Waste (ACNW). This change is reflected in our SCP Review Plan, which was sent to DOE on December 21, 1988. Our seven-month review and preparation of the SCA will include our comments on the ESF. These comments will not be issued to DOE in 90 days, as was previously planned in the 1986 PDS, because important ESF support information was not available for NRC review before the SCP was issued. This change was discussed with DOE in a meeting on October 19 to 21, 1988, and is consistent with my December 28, 1988 letter to you. Nevertheless, ESF review will be a priority review area, and we will inform DOE of any significant problems related to the ESF as soon as possible.

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

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures: As stated

- 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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ENCLOSURE 1

SITE CHARACTERIZATION PLAN (SCP) REFERENCES NOT RECEIVED*

Allmendinger et al., 1987.

Brown, et al., 1987.

Cranwell, et al., 1962.

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), 1985.

Gray, M. N., 1987.

Hayes, et al., 1987.

Langton and Roy, 1983.

NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission), 1968.

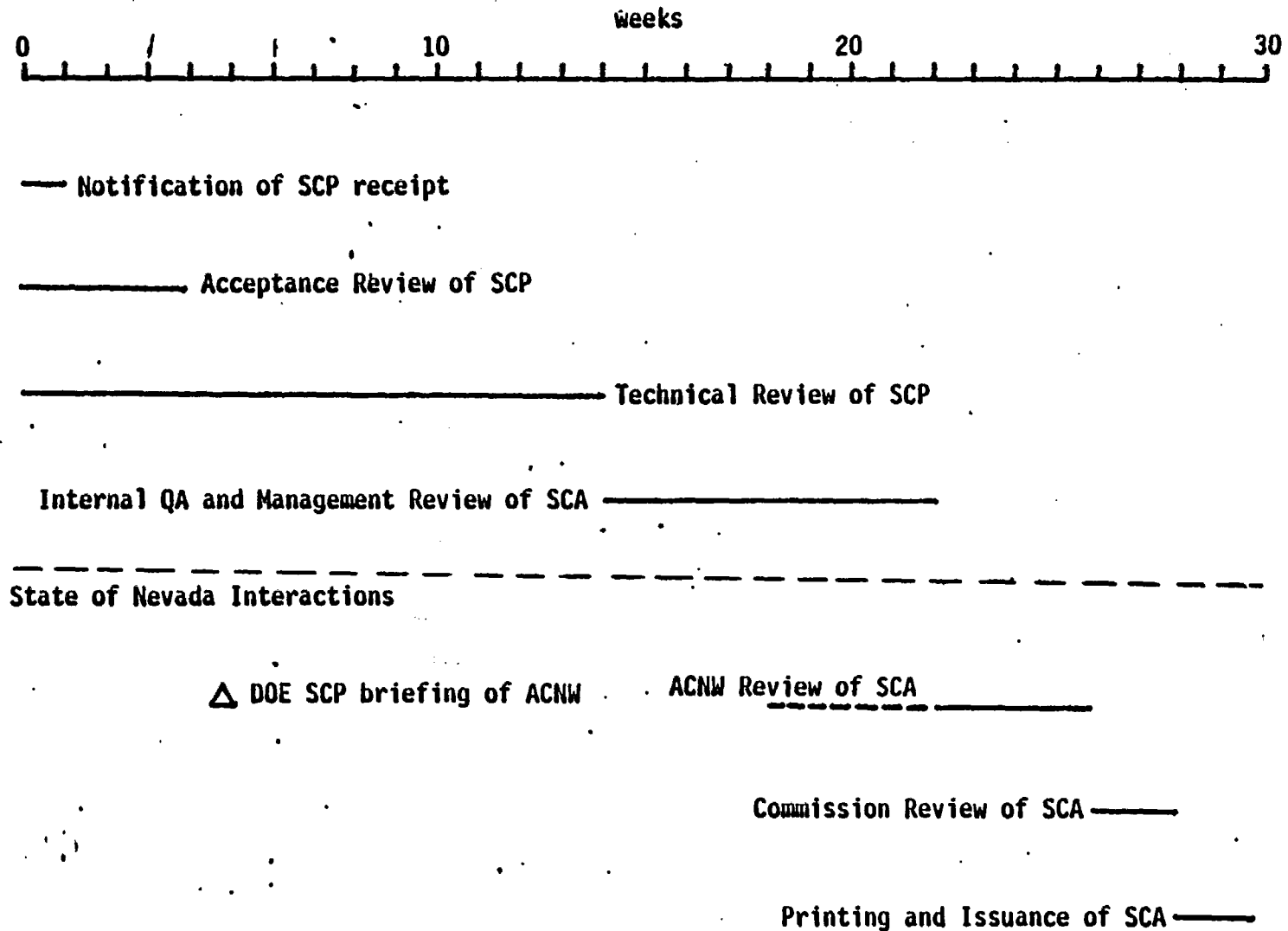
Orkild, Personal Communications Cited in SCP Reference 3336, McArthur and Buckhard.

Roy, et al., 1982.

Scheetz, B. E., and D. M. Roy, in prep., 1986. Preliminary Survey of the Stability of Silica-Rick Adventitious Monitors (82-22 and 84-12) with Tuff, Los Alamos National Laboratories, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 69p.

* As far as can be determined, based on information provided. Citations in the SCP are as shown; many are incomplete.

ENCLOSURE 2 - SCHEDULE OF MAJOR SCP REVIEW ACTIVITIES*



*Based on a 7 month or 30 week review period from the receipt of an SCP and references accepted for review. If receipt of references (e.g. Design Acceptability Analysis) is delayed, there will be a corresponding delay in the review and SCA issuance.