

NOV 12 1991

Mr. John P. Roberts

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Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: PHASE I REVIEW OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) STUDY PLAN FOR
METEOROLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION AT THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE
(METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING PLAN)

On May 16, 1991, DOE transmitted the study plan entitled "Study Plan for Meteorological Data Collection at the Yucca Mountain Site" (Study Plan for Study 8.3.1.12.2.1), to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review and comment. This document was also identified by DOE as its Meteorological Monitoring Plan, but the NRC staff, in reviewing it as a study plan, did not evaluate those aspects of the document related strictly to monitoring for operational purposes. The NRC has completed its Phase I Review of this study plan using the Review Plan for NRC Review of DOE Study Plans, Revision 1 (December 6, 1990).

The material submitted in the study plan was considered substantively consistent with the agreement on content resulting from the NRC-DOE agreements made at the May 7-8, 1986 meeting on Level of Detail for Site Characterization Plans and Study Plans. In addition, the references for the study plan have, for the most part, been provided to NRC or are readily available in the public domain.

A major purpose of the Phase I Review is to identify concerns with studies, tests, or analyses that if started could cause significant and irreparable adverse effects on the site, the site characterization program, or the eventual usability of the data for licensing. Such concerns would constitute objections, as that term has been used in earlier NRC staff reviews of DOE's documents related to site characterization (Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan and Site Characterization Plan for the Yucca Mountain site). The Phase I Review of this study plan identified no objections with any of the activities proposed.

After completion of the Phase I Review, based on the relationship of a given study plan to key site-specific issues or NRC open items, or its reliance on unique, state-of-the-art test or analysis methods, certain study plans are selected to receive a second level of review, called a Detailed Technical Review. We have decided not to proceed with a Detailed Technical Review of this study plan. However, the NRC staff may, at a later date, review the adequacy of this document as a Monitoring Plan as part of its review of operations-related programs.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact King Stablein (FTS/[301]-492-0446) of my staff.

Sincerely,

for (Original Signed by *Joseph J. Holcomb*)

John J. Linehan, Acting Director
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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