

JAN 19 1993

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, RW 30
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RESOLUTION OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SITE
CHARACTERIZATION ANALYSIS CONCERNS

On November 23, 1992 (letter from Roberts to Holonich), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) transmitted a letter regarding DOE actions on resolution of NRC Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) objections, comments, and questions. Paragraph three of that letter states that: "During FY 1992, DOE has supplied documentation to completely resolve Objection 1, completely resolve 19 comments, partially resolve 1 comment (C42), completely resolve 2 questions, and tentatively resolve 1 question (Q1)." The Enclosure to that letter lists SCA open items for which DOE has provided responses and the dates of the transmittal of those responses. The Enclosure further states that, "these open items are considered to be completely resolved, unless otherwise indicated."

Based on information provided by DOE on March 3, 1992, (letter from Roberts to Holonich), the NRC staff lifted SCA Objection 1 and concluded that Comments 12, 16, 35, 57, 72, 127, 128, and 132 and Question 61 were resolved. A letter informing DOE of the lifting of Objection 1 and the resolution of those open items was transmitted to DOE on November 2, 1992. In that same letter DOE was notified that the NRC staff considered Comments 34 and 130 and Question 28 to be unresolved open items that the staff would continue to track until resolved.

With respect to the other comments and questions (Comments 42, 43, 100, 102, 106, 108, 110, 112, and 113 and Questions 1 and 31), the NRC staff is reviewing DOE's submittals regarding resolution and a determination will be made as to whether or not those comments and questions are indeed resolved. You will be notified in the near future as to the status of those unresolved open items. The NRC staff does not consider any open item resolved until it has informed DOE of that decision via formal correspondence.

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact me at (301) 504-3387.

Sincerely,

JSJ

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

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
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