

MAR 16 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Associate Director for  
Systems and Compliance  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, RW 30  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: PHASE I REVIEW OF U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) STUDY PLAN  
"NATURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NYE COUNTY,  
NEVADA"

On December 17, 1992, DOE transmitted the study plan, "Natural Resources Assessment of Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" (Study Plan 8.3.1.9.2.1) to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review and comment. NRC has completed its Phase I Review of this document using the Review Plan for NRC Staff Review of DOE Study Plans, Revision 1 (December 6, 1990). The material submitted in the study plan was considered to be consistent, to the extent possible at this time, with the NRC-DOE agreement on content of study plans made at the May 7-8, 1986, meeting on Level of Detail for Site Characterization Plans and Study Plans.

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 the Site Characterization Plan for the Yucca Mountain site). It does not appear that the conduct of the activities described in this study plan will have adverse impacts on repository performance and the Phase I Review of this study plan identified no objections with any of the activities proposed.

After completion of the Phase I Review, selected study plans are to receive a second level of review, called a Detailed Technical 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. Based on these criteria, we have decided to proceed with a Detailed Technical Review of this study plan at this time.

In a letter of February 5, 1993 (Roberts to Holonich), DOE proposed resolution of three Site Characterization Analysis (SCA) open items (Comment 53 and Questions 14 and 15) related to this study plan. That letter also provided additional information supporting DOE's request for resolution of the three SCA open items. As part of its Detailed Technical Review of this study plan the NRC staff will evaluate the information provided by DOE and a determination will be made as to whether or not those open items are resolved.

9303190267 930316  
PDR WASTE  
WM-11 PDR

102.8  
WM-11  
NHL6

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

2

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact  
Charlotte Abrams of my staff at (301) 504-3403.

Sincerely,

/s/

Joseph 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  
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV  
R. Williams, Lander County, NV  
L. Florenzia, Eureka County, NV  
L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV  
C. Shank, Churchill County, NV  
E. Holstein, Nye County, NV

DISTRIBUTION

CNWRA	NMSS R/F	HLPD R/F	LSS
LPDR	ACNW	PDR	Central File
BJYoungblood, HLWM	JLinehan, HLWM	RBallard, HLGE	JHolonich, HLPD
MFederline, HLHP	On-Site Reps		

See previous concurrence

OFC	HLPD		HLPD*		HLGE*		HLGE*		HLGE*		HLPD
NAME	CAbrams		PPrestholt		HLeffevre		KMcConnell		RBallard		JHolonich
DATE	3/ /93		3/05/93		3/05/93		3/05/93		3/10/93		3/12/93

C = COVER  
s:natres

E = COVER & ENCLOSURE

N = NO

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

2

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact  
Charlotte Abrams of my staff at (301) 504-3403.

Sincerely,

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

*Project*

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  
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV  
R. Williams, Lander County, NV  
L. Fiorenza, Eureka County, NV  
L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV  
C. Shank, Churchill County, NV  
E. Holstein, Nye County, NV

DISTRIBUTION

CNWRA	NMSS R/F	HLPD R/F	LSS
LPDR	ACNW	PDR	Central File
BJYoungblood, HLWM	JLinehan, HLWM	RBallard, HLGE	JHolonich, HLPD
MFederline, HLHP	On-Site Reps		

See previous concurrence

0FC	HLPD		HLPD*		HLGE*		HLGE*		HLGE	HLPD	
NAME	CAbrams		PPrestholt		HLeffevre		KMcConnell		RBallard	JHolonich	
DATE	3/05/93		3/05/93		3/05/93		3/05/93		3/10/93	3/ /93	

C = COVER  
s:natres.ca

E = COVER & ENCLOSURE

N = NO

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

2

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact  
Charlotte Abrams of my staff at (301) 504-3403.

Sincerely,

*JS*

Joseph Holonich, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance 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  
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV  
R. Williams, Lander County, NV  
P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV  
L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV  
C. Shank, Churchill County, NV  
E. Holstein, Nye County, NV.

DISTRIBUTION

CNWSA	NMSS R/F	HLPD R/F	LSS
LPDR	ACNW	PDR	Central File
BJYoungblood, HLWM	JLinehan, HLWM	RBallard, HLGE	MFederline, HLHP
JHolonich, HLPD	On-Site Reps		

OFC	HLPD	C	HLPD	N	HLGE	C	HLGE	C	HLPD	
NAME	CAbrams/wd		PPreston		HLefevre		KMcConnell		JHolonich	
DATE	3/5/93		3/5/93		3/5/93		3/5/93		3/ /93	

C = COVER E = COVER & ENCLOSURE N = NO COPY  
s:natres.ca