

102
PDR-1
LPDR WM-11(2)

Carl Gertz, Director
Waste Management Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, NV 89114-4105

Dear Mr. Gertz:

REFERENCE: NNWSI Project Background Paper, "Proposed Changes to the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations Project Exploratory Shaft Facility", March, 1987.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the reference document, which was provided to the NRC in connection with the April 14-15, 1987 NRC/NNWSI Project Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) meeting, to ascertain whether the increased drifting from the main test level of the ESF will enable the NNWSI Project to gather data representative of the entire repository block. Based on this review, in conjunction with an examination of the geology of the Yucca Mountain site as presented in the final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Yucca Mountain and other references listed in Enclosure 1 to this letter, the NRC staff has concluded that the proposed area of drifting may not provide data representative of the southern part of the site and that if the surface-based testing program does not obtain data sufficient to define the southern part of the repository block, the information available might not allow adequate characterization of the site.

Enclosure 1 contains the staff analysis supporting this conclusion. This analysis is intended to provide the NNWSI Project with feedback for consideration in developing the Site Characterization Plan. If you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter or the enclosure, please contact Keith McConnell (FTS 427-4697) or Charlotte Abrams (FTS 427-4390) of the NRC High Level Waste Management Division Technical Review Branch or King Stablein (FTS 427-4796) of my staff.

Sincerely,

8710220433 871022
PDR WASTE PDR
WM-11

John J. Linehan, Section Leader
Projects Section, Operations Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
As stated

- cc: J. Knight, DOE/HQ
- R. Stein, DOE/HQ
- D. Alexander, DOE/HQ
- E. Regnier, DOE/HQ

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WM Project: WM-10
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WM Record File: 102
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Gertz

FROM: Linehan

SUBJECT: NNWSI Project: Drifting and Representativeness

DATE:

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CONCURRENCES

ORGANIZATION/CONCUREE	INITIALS	DATE CONCURRED
HLOB/KStablein	<u>NKS</u>	87/08/28
HLOB/RJohnson	<u>RCJ</u>	87/08/28
HLOB/JLinehan	<u>JL</u>	87/8/28

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HLOB/RJohnson	<u>RCJ</u>	87/08/28
HLOB/JLinehan	<u>[Signature]</u>	87/8/28

(original not received in the WMDCC)
8-31-87 2:00
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FROM RBaVard		DATE OF DOCUMENT 6/22/87	DATE RECEIVED 6/22/87	NO WM-87305
TO JLinehan		LTR	MEMO XX	REPORT XX
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CLASSIF		ACTION NECESSARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE ANSWERED 7/14
POST OFFICE		NO ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>	BY
REG. NO.		FILE CODE: 000		8/7 5/14
DESCRIPTION (Must Be Unclassified) NRMSI Exploratory Shaft Facility and the Issue of Representativeness		REFERRED TO JLinehan	DATE 6/30	RECEIVED BY
ENCLOSURES		RLJohnson		
REMARKS <i>Action closed 5/28 by Linehan letter to Betty DOE</i>				