



UNITED STATES
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Docket No.

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H
 Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
 Division of High-Level Waste Management
 U.S. NRC (M/S 623-SS)
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Distribution:

REP MSB

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Youngblood

Staplein

Stall

McConnell

x Prestholt

Dear Mr. Browning:

We wish to express to you our sincere appreciation for the tremendous effort Paul Prestholt put forth to make our recent visit to the Nevada Test Site so informative, worthwhile and well-organized. We consider this interchange with DOE as a prime example of excellent interagency cooperation in the pursuit of a common goal, i.e., a suitable geologic repository for high-level waste. Paul was extremely helpful, both in coordinating with DOE the advance preparations for our visit and during the visit as well. He accompanied us on all portions of our tour of the NTS, with running commentary, and gave an excellent presentation on his role and responsibilities as the NRC Nevada Site Representative during the briefing session on our first day there.

We also wish to express our appreciation for the presence and assistance of Keith McConnell of your staff who was very knowledgeable and helpful throughout both the Arizona and Nevada portions of our trip. It was certainly to our advantage for him to be part of our group.

As a result of our visit and seeing in person the various efforts in progress, we now have a firsthand understanding of what we previously could only visualize from pictures and oral descriptions. Consequently, we have fully achieved our objectives in making this visit, and are therefore much better qualified to advise the NRC Commissioners on those matters pertaining to the NRC role in this program.

We have recently received the enclosed letter reports from the five consultants who were in attendance during our recent visit to the University of Arizona and the Nevada Test Site. These reports, in conjunction with Subcommittee Chairman Dr. D. W. Moeller's enclosed Summary Report of ACRS Waste Management Field Trip to the above sites, are being provided as a reciprocal action on our part in response to Paul's, DOE's and other excellent, well-prepared and comprehensive presentations on the NTS programs.

Please note that the reports from our consultants and Dr. Moeller's Summary are preliminary in nature; they represent the personal comments and observations of these individuals on the discussions and field trips. These reports are being provided to you for your information,

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Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director 2

and they should not be regarded as representing official positions of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, as they have not been reviewed by and/or approved by that Committee.

Enclosures:
As stated

Sincerely,



Owen S. Merrill
ACRS Senior Staff Engineer

cc: With Enclosures:
R. Ballard, NMSS/TRB
K. McConnell, NMSS/TRB
P. Prestholt, NRC Nevada Site Representative

Without Enclosures:
D. W. Moeller, ACRS Member
ACRS Technical Management Staff
S. J. Parry, Senior ACRS Fellow