



AGENCY FOR NUCLEAR PROJECTS
NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT OFFICE

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July 18, 1988

Mr. Ralph Stein
Acting Associate Director for
Systems Integration and Regulations
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Stein:

This Office has performed a preliminary review of DOE NNWSI Study Plan, No. 8.3.1.2.2.2, entitled "Study Plan for Water Movement Test" and Study Plan No. 8.3.1.15.1.5, entitled "Excavation Investigations". It is our understanding these plans describe tests to be performed during construction of the exploratory shaft.

Based upon a preliminary review, this Office finds the two study plans inadequate as input for understanding the DOE'S program for characterizing Yucca Mountain. The plans are insufficient in detail to allow an understanding of the need for the studies, adequacy of the data derived from the study, and conclusions about the suitability of site which could be derived from the data, and relevance to other plans and tests for characterization. Separately, the plans are devoid of any discussion of the quality assurance requirements and quality controls necessary to establish confidence in the conduct of these studies and the conclusions about site suitability drawn from the studies.

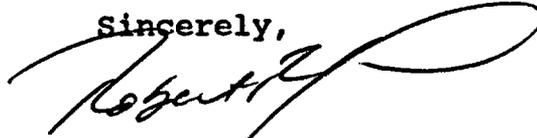
Since we find these study plans to be inadequate, the need to conduct a detailed review is not compelling. We believe the State's limited resources can be directed to other more productive aspects of oversight rather than review insufficient programmatic documents. Unless requested otherwise, this Office will not continue to review these two study plans.

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Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Loux
Executive Director

RRL/CAJ/sjc

cc: Robert Browning, NRC ✓
Carl Gertz, DOE-WMPO