



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

OCT 5 1988

Mr. John Linehan, Chief  
Project Management and Quality  
Assurance Branch  
Division of High-Level  
Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Materials  
Safety and Security  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

This is in response to your letter of August 22, 1988, regarding the design control process.

The Department considers that it maintains adequate control over its design process. We are aware, however, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) concern over various aspects of the design control process, and are improving the implementation of this process in the areas of concern to NRC. We are including a detailed discussion of the design control in Chapter 8.4 of the forthcoming Site Characterization Plan.

We are also requesting the Yucca Mountain Project Office to emphasize items pertinent to design control in future audits of their contractors.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Edward P. Regnier (586-4590) of my staff about any questions.

Sincerely,

Ralph Stein  
Associate Director for Systems  
Integration and Regulations  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management

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