



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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NOV 30 1989

Robert Browning, Director
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

Enclosed with this letter are controlled copies of study plan 8.3.1.3.2.1, prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the Yucca Mountain site. The study plan number corresponds to the same number used in the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) for the Yucca Mountain Site.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
8.3.1.3.2.1, Revision 0	Mineralogy, Petrology and Chemistry of Transport Pathways

DOE has reviewed the study plan for consistency with the content requirements for study plans, as given in Attachment B to the Summary of the DOE/Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) meeting on the Level-of-Detail for the SCP (May 7-8, 1986). DOE is submitting this plan to NRC as agreed to in that meeting.

As discussed during the DOE/NRC meeting (December 15, 1988) on study plans, DOE has decided to control preparation and review of study plans as a Quality Assurance (QA) Level 1 activity. Because these study plans were in preparation prior to that decision, they were not prepared under current Project Office and DOE/HQ, QA Level 1 procedures. During the meeting on study plans, DOE agreed to prepare an assessment of the five construction phase Exploratory Shaft Facility study plans relative to current QA requirements. This assessment has been transmitted to you on June 23, 1989. An abbreviated quality assessment, similar in intent and complimentary to the earlier assessment, has been performed for study plan 8.3.1.3.2.1, and is enclosed with this letter. This evaluation has been performed under procedures consistent with NNWSI/88-9, Rev. 2. Results of this quality assessment indicated that the plan listed above meets all major quality assurance requirements for planning documents and is of sufficient technical quality for NRC review.

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Please note that the Quality Assurance Level Assignments (QALA) for the activities to be performed under this study plan, is included as part of a QA appendix to the study plans. These QALAs were included in the study plans to satisfy the May 7-8, 1986, Level-of-Detail Agreement for content of study plans. As you are aware, DOE is currently in the process of implementing QA procedures that are consistent with NNWSI QAP 88-9, Rev. 2 and NUREG 1318. Following the implementation of these procedures, DOE will reevaluate existing QALA's as appropriate. All study plans will be distributed as controlled documents, and as such, any revision to the study plans and appended QALA lists will be distributed as controlled documents.

DOE is also developing a definition of standard and non-standard technical procedures to ensure consistent identification and utilization of these procedures in the development of future study plans. It should also be noted that there are some inconsistencies in the milestone report titles and schedules given in this study plan and those in the SCP. Study plans, in general, represent a further evolution of the study in the areas related to schedules and milestones relative to the SCP, and as such represent DOE's current plans. Schedule changes will be tracked in the site characterization progress reports.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Appel of my staff at 586-1462.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures:

*See Enclosure on
Sheet*

Study Plan 8.3.1.3.2.1 - Study Plan for Mineralogy, Petrology, and Chemistry of Transport Pathways (copies for controlled distribution to J. Linehan and R. Browning.)

cc w/attachments:

K. Stablein, NRC
J. Linehan, NRC
R. Loux, State of Nevada

D. Betchel, Clark County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV