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DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS '83 NOV 17 AIO:58

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November 7, 1983

Dr. Donald L. Vieth, Director
Waste Management Project Office
Department of Energy
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114-4100

WM Record File
102.3

WM Project 11
Docket No. _____
PDR
LPDR

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(Return to WM, 623-SS) 1665 # 22 C2

RE: Technical Workshops

Dear Dr. Vieth:

I am in receipt of letters from DOE/NVO announcing the cancellation of the remaining NRC/NNWSI technical workshops scheduled. I want to express my concern about the cancellation and request the workshops be rescheduled as soon as possible.

While I understand the need to focus resources on the development of a draft environmental assessment, I don't believe that this focus should be undertaken at the expense of the technical workshops. I am concerned about this reordering of priorities from two perspectives:

- 1) Workshops are the only vehicles by which the State is able to know the current status of technical data, analyses, and conclusions.
- 2) The State would be placed in a decidedly disadvantageous position during our upcoming review of the draft environmental assessment without current first-hand knowledge of the data and technical studies.

Based upon this rationale, I am requesting the workshops in geochemistry and performance assessment, at the minimum, be rescheduled immediately. I would hope that workshops in all subjects could be completed prior to issuance of the draft environmental assessment.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Loux
Nuclear Waste Evaluation Program

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