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AGENCY FOR NUCLEAR PROJECTS
NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT OFFICE

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-3744

November 4, 1986

Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
Waste Management Division
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

WM Record File

102.5

WM Project

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Docket No.

PDR

LPDR

Distribution:

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In the September 1986 issue of "Selected NRC Products: High-Level Waste Program" we note, on page 12, that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) currently is reviewing the final Environmental Assessments (EA) released by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) last May 28. It will be helpful to our planning efforts to learn of NRC's schedule for completion and issuance of the review. Also, we will appreciate receiving a copy of the March 1986 "Standard Review Plan for Environmental Assessments" described on page 24 of the aforementioned document.

In addition to information on NRC plans for completing its review of the EAs, we wish to learn of how NRC envisions addressing the issues of:

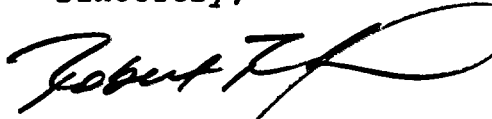
1. Environmental Assessments for the Site Characterization Plans as called for in NWPA, Section 113 (a); and
2. Mitigation of significant adverse environmental impacts caused by site characterization, as called for in NWPA, Section 113 (b) (1) (A) (iii).

The "Selected NRC Products: High-Level Waste Program" document makes no mention of Site Technical Positions or Generic Technical Positions regarding environmental review for site characterization. How the NRC plans to address such matters as part of the site characterization process envisioned by the NWPA is of much interest to our program. Your views on this issue will be appreciated.

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PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Loux", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Robert R. Loux
Executive Director

RRL/gjb