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NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT OFFICE

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-3744
August 21, 1986

WM Record File
102.3

WM Project 11
Docket No. _____
PDR

Mr. John Trapp
Geotechnical Branch
Division of Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Distribution:
REB MJB JJS Kunihiko RV
JOB J Trapp SBilhorn RDM
(Return to WM, 623 C) J Linehan Sac

Dear John:

During our recent conversation, you expressed some concern about possible conflict of interest between the NRC and the State with the use of David B. Slemmons, Director - Center for Neotectonic Studies, University of Nevada-Reno. I would like to assure the NRC there is no intent on our part that by contracting with the University of Nevada-Reno, a relationship with the NRC might be compromised.

Last year this Office initiated discussions with Dr. James Taranik, Dean - Mackay School of Mines relative to the University providing consulting services in geology and seismology toward the State's review of the proposed high-level nuclear waste repository site at Yucca Mountain. After numerous discussions the Dean determined that management of the University's effort for the State should rest in the Center for Neotectonic Studies under the leadership of Dr. Slemmons. We all recognized that this arrangement might generate some conflict of interest questions. Therefore, the following provisions were agreed to by the parties.

1. Dr. Slemmons would manage the contract with the State only. His responsibilities would include contract reporting, scheduling project meetings and workshops, securing office equipment, supplies, and clerical services, and coordinating technical interactions between principal investigators.
2. Dr. Slemmons would receive no compensation from the contract for his involvement in the project.
3. Dr. Slemmons would not conduct or supervise any technical studies as part of this contract with the State.

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A contract between this Office and the Center for Neotectonic Studies was concluded in the summer of this year.

In our view his management of this contract with the State of Nevada does not represent a conflict of interest with his consulting to the NRC, but represents a portion of his normal duties as Director of the Center for Neotectonic Studies.

I would be happy to discuss this subject further with you or any representative of the NRC at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any additional clarification is required.

Sincerely,



Carl A. Johnson
Administrator of Technical Programs

CAJ/njc

cc: David B. Slemmons
Paul Prestholt