



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES

WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER
EAST 360 3RD AVENUE
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202

December 7, 1988

Memorandum

To: Charlotte Abrams, Project Officer, Geotechnical Branch,
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC

From: Chief, Branch of Engineering and Economic Analysis

Subject: Final Draft--"Status of Lode-Quartz Claims on Yucca Mountain,
Nye County, Nevada", Work Directive-019, Task Order 002 under
Interagency Agreement NRC-02-85-004

NRC FIN D1018

Pursuant to your request, enclosed are six revised copies of page three of the subject document. The revised page is to be substituted for the existing page three in all copies of the document.

If you have any questions, please contact Russell Raney at FTS 439-7739 or John Norberg at FTS 439-7910.


Robert D. Weldin

Enclosure

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It is not clear to BLM what mineral or commodity is being sought by Mr. Perchetti, as the claims are located on apparently barren silicic tuff with no mineralized material exposed in outcrop. However, Perchetti's drilling plans may call for penetration of the lower Tram Member of the Crater Flat Tuff and possibly the underlying Paleozoic rocks. Gold, in economic quantity and quality, has recently been discovered by GEXA Gold Inc. in both the lower Tram Member and the Paleozoic strata on Bare Mountain. The claimant may have been motivated by this discovery. In addition, he may also be aware that gold has been detected by the USGS in cuttings from boreholes on Yucca Mountain that have penetrated the lower Tram Member as reported in various Department of Energy public documents.

LEGAL STATUS

According to BLM, Mr. Perchetti is within his rights to locate claims on Yucca Mountain as the area, administered by BLM, is public domain and open for mineral entry. Further, the claimant can maintain his right to the claims provided he meets certain requirements pertaining to discovery, assessment work, environmental impact, reclamation, etc. It is BLM policy not to conduct a formal validity examination unless the area in question is withdrawn from mineral entry. If the area is withdrawn and the claimant cannot prove the existence of minerals in economic amounts, the claims would be contested by BLM. However, if a mineral discovery is made prior to withdrawal, the claims will remain valid and unaffected by the withdrawal.