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MAY 08 1989

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
 Office of Systems Integration and Regulations
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 U. S. Department of Energy, RW-24
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

On November 29, 1988, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) forwarded Revision 1 of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance Requirements (QAR) document, for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review and acceptance. Our review conclusions are described in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE). In the SE, the NRC staff concludes that the QAR meets the requirements of Subpart G of 10 CFR Part 60 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, as applicable, with the exception of the modification identified in Section 5 of this evaluation.

The QAR defines the basic quality programmatic requirements governing activities affecting quality in the high-level radioactive waste repository, the monitored retrievable storage facility, transportation, and the Federal interim storage facility. The NRC staff review has been limited to the high-level radioactive waste repository program. The QAR should not be misconstrued to exclusively satisfy all the quality assurance (QA) requirements of the repository program. For the OCRWM program, the QAR is to be used in conjunction with the OCRWM Quality Assurance Program Description document.

DOE may make changes to the QAR if the changes do not reduce the commitments that DOE previously made, and which NRC previously accepted. Changes that reduce DOE's commitments should be accepted by NRC before implementation. A copy of this letter and SE should be included with each controlled copy of the QAR. One copy should be resubmitted to NRC.

With the incorporation of the modification identified in Section 5 of this SE, the NRC staff finds the plan fully acceptable. This modification was discussed and agreed to in a February 6, 1989 conference call between J. Jones of DOE and J. Kennedy of my staff, and its incorporation into the QAR should be straightforward. We request DOE submit this modification to NRC within 30 days of the date of this letter. Should you have any questions on our review, please contact Bill Belke of my staff on (301) 492-0445.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John J. Linehan, Director
 Repository Licensing and Quality
 Assurance Project Directorate
 Division of High-Level Waste Management

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 PDR WASTE
 WM-1 PDC

cc: R. Loux, St. of NV.
 C. Gertz, DOE/NV
 S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV.
 D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV.
 M. Baugham, Lincoln County, NV.
 K. Turner, GAO

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* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

** 3/9/89 Per telecon with C. Cameron, no legal objection.

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