



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Resources, Community, and
Economic Development Division

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November 1, 1988

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

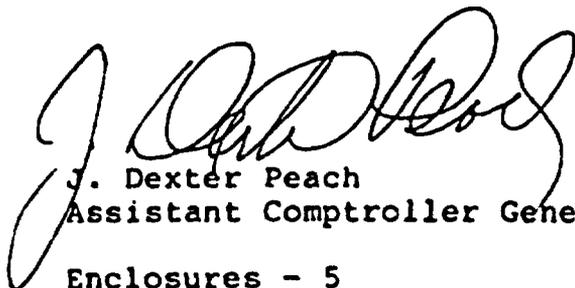
Dear Admiral Zech:

Enclosed are five copies of a report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, that provides our assessment of the Department of Energy's progress in developing a quality assurance program for characterizing the Yucca Mountain, Nevada, site for possible use as a nuclear waste repository. It also addresses interactions between the Department and the Commission for the early identification and resolution of potential quality-related licensing problems.

This report contains recommendations to you in chapters 2 and 3. As you know, 31 U.S.C. 720 requires the head of a federal agency to submit a written statement on actions taken on our recommendations to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Operations not later than 60 days after the date of this letter and to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with the agency's first request for appropriations made more than 60 days after the date of the letter.

We are sending copies of this report to appropriate congressional committees; the Secretary, Department of Energy; and other interested parties.

Sincerely yours,



J. Dexter Peach
Assistant Comptroller General

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