



## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

P. O. Box 98518

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### Distribution

#### FINAL SUMMARY REPORT ON THE CALCITE AND OPALINE SILICA DEPOSITS PEER REVIEW

Enclosed is the final report issued by the Calcite and Opaline Silica Peer Review Committee (enclosure 1). Also enclosed are subsequent comments on the report by the participants (enclosures 2 and 3), Waste Management Project Office (WMPO) guidance (enclosure 4), and the exchange of letters clarifying a portion of the peer review report (enclosures 5 and 6). This letter finalizes the peer review and satisfies the required quality assurance procedures.

The WMPO is now ready to receive the study plans associated with the calcite and opaline silica deposits (hydrogenic deposits). These plans should be prepared with the results of the peer review in mind. The WMPO is generally satisfied that the participating research organizations recognize the significance and relevance of the work being proposed.

The WMPO will be closely comparing the recommendations of the peer review panel with the contents of the study plans. Investigators should be cognizant that the study plan reviewers will focus not only on how the proposed work compares with the peer review recommendations, but also on its applicability to performance assessment and the repository's ability to contain and isolate waste for 10,000 years. Any differences or deviations from the peer review recommendations should be clearly stated and defended in the study plans.

Again, the WMPO would like to thank the members of the peer review panel, the participants, and the others involved for the time and effort they invested in their review of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI) Project studies on deposits of calcite/opaline silica located along faults. The peer review panel report will greatly assist the NNWSI Project in its characterization of Yucca Mountain as a potential high-level nuclear waste repository.

*Robert A. Leitch*  
for: Maxwell B. Blanchard, Chief  
Regulatory & Site Evaluation Branch  
Waste Management Project Office

WMPO:DEL-401

#### Enclosures:

1. Ltr 7/22/87 Vaniman to Blanchard
2. Ltr 7/22/87 Hayes to Blanchard
3. Ltr 9/4/87 Blanchard to Hayes
4. Ltr 9/3/87 Blanchard to Distribution
5. Ltr 9/30/87 Hanson to Blanchard
6. Ltr 6/19/87 Hanson to Blanchard

cc v/encl:

V. J. Cassella, HQ (RV-222), FORS

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June 19, 1987

Dr. Maxwell B. Blanchard, Chief  
Department of Energy  
P. O. Box 14100  
Las Vegas, NV 89114-4100

SAIC/T & MSS

JUN 22 1987

Dear Max:

C C F RECEIVED

Enclosed is the Report of the Peer Review Panel on the Proposed Program of Studies of the Calcite and Opaline-Silica Deposits in the Yucca Mountain Area. If you have any questions, I can be reached at Stony Brook until early September, after which I will be at the

Department of Geology and Geography  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Tel. No. (413) 545-2286

Best regards,



Gilbert N. Hanson  
Professor

CNH:AR  
Enc.

cc: S. R. Mattson ✓