

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Project Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

- References: 1) Briefing by DOE on the High-Level Waste Program
to the NRC, on December 20, 1993
2) Letter from J. Holonich, NRC, to D. Shelor, DOE,
dated April 29, 1994

Dear Mr. Holonich:

This letter is in response to questions asked during the briefing by Dr. Daniel Dreyfus, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), on December 20, 1993. It also responds to concerns raised in a letter from NRC to DOE, transmitted on April 29, 1994.

During the briefing DOE was asked when DOE and NRC would be able to communicate electronically. As of March 28, 1994, electronic mail (e-mail) access to NRC from DOE has been available via an Internet based service. However, due to an upgrading of the DOE Office of Human Resources World Talk standard, NRC is still unable to access DOE via Internet. The Office of Human Resources has indicated that this problem will be rectified by July 15, 1994.

In the April 29, 1994, letter, NRC asked why it would take 90 days to provide Internet access in view of the fact that the U.S. Geological Survey already has Internet access to the Automated Data Tracking System. DOE currently supports the use of Internet access, where applicable, such as for e-mail. However, due to the nature of the Internet system, such a service is not always reliable. Specifically, some of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office participants using Internet to access the Project system have had significant problems. These problems include significant down-time and lost traffic. Participants requiring virtual terminal access or higher reliability would utilize a dedicated service. Therefore, the Project has instigated dedicated service for many participants, including the Geological Survey.

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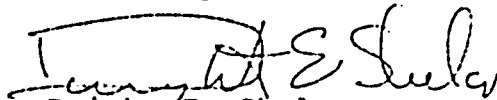
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in order to meet the agreements and requirements for NRC access to the Automated Technical Data Tracking database, it was determined that a separate dedicated computer system would be required. This computer system, reprioritized from existing systems, requires set-up and configuration. As part of this configuration, some additional software is required. The 90 day lead time is required to procure, install, configure, and test the new software.

Regarding Automated Technical Data Tracking system access, DOE will set up accounts for the user names provided in Enclosures 1 and 2 of the April 29, 1994, letter. This access will be provided to a maximum of 5 concurrent users, as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Corinne Macaluso of my staff at (202) 586-2837.

Sincerely,



Dwight E. Shelor
Associate Director
Office of Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

R. Nelson, YMPO
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
R. Loux, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Las Vegas, NV
Eureka County, NV
Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
W. Offutt, Nye County, NV
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B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA