

SEP 02 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) STUDY PLAN "QUATERNARY STRIKE-SLIP FAULTS PROXIMAL TO THE SITE WITHIN NORTHEAST-TRENDING ZONES"

On May 19, 1993, DOE transmitted the study plan, "Quaternary Strike-Slip Faults Proximal to the Site Within Northeast-Trending Zones" (Study Plan 8.3.1.17.4.4) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review and comment. NRC has completed its review of this document using the Review Plan for NRC Staff Review of DOE Study Plans, Revision 2 (March 10, 1993). The material submitted in the study plan was considered to be consistent, to the extent possible at this time, with the revised NRC-DOE "Level of Detail Agreement and Review Process for Study Plans" (Shelor to Holonich, March 22, 1993).

A major purpose of the review is to identify concerns with studies, tests, or analyses that, if started, could cause significant and irreparable adverse effects on the site, the site characterization program, or the eventual usability of the data for licensing. Such concerns would constitute objections, as that term has been used in earlier NRC staff reviews of DOE's documents related to site characterization (Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan and the Site Characterization Plan for the Yucca Mountain site). The location of the activities is sufficiently removed from the site area that there should be no adverse impacts on repository performance and the review of this study plan identified no objections with any of the activities proposed.

As part of its study plan review, the NRC staff determines whether or not detailed comments or questions are warranted. The NRC staff has no detailed technical comments related to this study plan at this time. The staff suggests that DOE may wish to expand the suite of tests to be conducted under this study plan to include additional geophysical methods listed in study plan 8.3.1.17.4.7, such as detailed gravity and magnetic surveys.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Charlotte Abrams (301) 504-3403 of my staff.

Sincerely,

JS

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
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