

July 22, 2004

Mr. Joseph D. Ziegler, Director  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of License Application and Strategy  
Office of Repository Development  
1551 Hillshire Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

**SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW OF  
REVISION 15 TO THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND  
DESCRIPTION**

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

This is in response to the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management request for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and acceptance of Revision 15 to the DOE Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD), DOE/RW-033P. DOE originally submitted the proposed Revision 15 to NRC on April 29, 2004. DOE then submitted clarifications to Revision 15 on June 10, 2004, followed by further revisions on July 2, 2004.

NRC staff reviewed the proposed changes described in Revision 15 to the QARD, as revised, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 63, "Disposal of High-level Radioactive Wastes in a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada." NRC staff has determined that the changes described in the proposed Revision 15, as revised, are acceptable and are adequate for controlling DOE's present work activities.

In your April 29, 2004 letter, you state that, for the foreseeable future, DOE intends to continue to require the quality assurance organizations, as an in-line function, to continue to concur on the corrective action plans and verify the implementation of corrective actions for significant conditions adverse to quality and conditions adverse to quality (as documented on Level A and Level B Condition Reports, respectively). NRC staff recommends that before DOE transfers accountability for corrective action plan approval and the verification of corrective actions for

J. D. Ziegler

-2-

Level A and Level B Condition Reports to the line organizations, DOE should assure that there is sufficient justification for the transfer of accountability and document this justification as part of the DOE quality assurance document control process.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Thomas Matula at 301-415-6700.

Sincerely,

/RA/

C. William Reamer, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

Letter or Memorandum to J. D. Ziegler from C.W. Reamer, dated: July 22, 2004

cc:

A. Kalt, Churchill County, NV	A. Elzeftawy, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
R. Massey, Churchill/Lander County, NV	J. Treichel, Nuclear Waste Task Force
I. Navis, Clark County, NV	W. Briggs, Ross, Dixon & Bell
E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV	M. Chu, DOE/Washington, D.C.
G. McCorkell, Esmeralda County, NV	G. Runkle, DOE/Washington, D.C.
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV	C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
A. Johnson, Eureka County, NV	S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
A. Remus, Inyo County, CA	W. J. Arthur, III , DOE/ORD
M. Yarbro, Lander County, NV	R. Dyer, DOE/ORD
S. Hafen, Lincoln County, NV	J. Ziegler, DOE/ORD
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV	A. Gil, DOE/ORD
L. Mathias, Mineral County, NV	W. Boyle, DOE/ORD
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV	D. Brown, DOE/OCRWM
M. Maher, Nye County, NV	S. Mellington, DOE/ORD
D. Hammermeister, Nye County, NV	C. Hanlon, DOE/ORD
M. Simon, White Pine County, NV	T. Gunter, DOE/ORD
J. Ray, NV Congressional Delegation	A. Benson, DOE/ORD
B. J. Gerber, NV Congressional Delegation	N. Hunemuller, DOE/ORD
F. Roberson, NV Congressional Delegation	M. Mason, BSC
T. Story, NV Congressional Delegation	S. Cereghino, BSC
R. Herbert, NV Congressional Delegation	N. Williams, BSC
L. Hunsaker, NV Congressional Delegation	E. Mueller, BSC
S. Joya, NV Congressional Delegation	J. Mitchell, BSC
K. Kirkeby, NV Congressional Delegation	D. Beckman, BSC/B&A
R. Loux, State of NV	M. Voegele, BSC/SAID
S. Frishman, State of NV	B. Helmer, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
S. Lynch, State of NV	R. Boland, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
P. Guinan, Legislative Counsel Bureau	R. Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe
J. Pegues, City of Las Vegas, NV	J. Birchim, Yomba Shoshone Tribe
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV	R. Holden, NCAE

cc: (Continued)

R. Clark, EPA

R. Anderson, NEI

R. McCullum, NEI

S. Kraft, NEI

J. Kessler, EPRI

D. Duncan, USGS

R. Craig, USGS

W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD

L. Lehman, T-Reg, Inc.

S. Echols, Esq

C. Marden, BNFL, Inc.

J. Bacoeh, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the  
Owens Valley

P. Thompson, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

T. Kingham, GAO

D. Feehan, GAO

E. Hiruo, Platts Nuclear Publications

G. Hernandez, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

K. Finrock, NV Congressional Delegation

P. Johnson, Citizen Alert

A. Capoferri, DOE/ Washington, DC

J. Williams, DOE/Washington, DC

C. Meyers, Moapa Paiute Indian Tribe

R. Wilder, Fort Independence Indian Tribe

D. Vega, Bishop Paiute Indian Tribe

J. Egan, Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, PLLC

J. Leeds, Las Vegas Indian Center

J. C. Saulque, Benton Paiute Indian Tribe

C. Bradley, Kaibab Band of Southern Paiutes

R. Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

L. Tom, Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah

E. Smith, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

D. Buckner, Ely Shoshone Tribe

V. Guzman, Walker River Paiute

D. Eddy, Jr., Colorado River Indian Tribes

H. Jackson, Public Citizen

J. Wells, Western Shoshone National  
Council

D. Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of NV

I. Zabarte, Western Shoshone National  
Council

S. Devlin

G. Hudlow

D. Irwin, Hunton & Williams

J. D. Ziegler

-2-

Level A and Level B Condition Reports to the line organizations, DOE should assure that there is sufficient justification for the transfer of accountability and document this justification as part of the DOE quality assurance document control process.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Thomas Matula at 301-415-6700.

Sincerely,

/RA/

C. William Reamer, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

**DISTRIBUTION:**

HLWRS r/f	ACNW	CNWRA	LKokajko	ECollins	LCampbell
LChandler	KStablein	ACampbell	MYoung	JMoore	MBailey
FBrown	MZobler	BSpitzberg	WMaier	GMorrell	TCombs
MWoods	DHiggs	SRohrer	KMcConnell	GHatchett	OSRs

**ML042010324**

\*See previous concurrence

<b>OFC</b>	HLWRS		HLWRS		OGC		HLWRS	
<b>NAME</b>	TMatula*		FBrown*		JMoore*		CReamer	
<b>DATE</b>	07/20/04		07/20/04		07/22/04		07/22/04	

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**