

September 9, 2004

Dr. B. John Garrick, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE LETTER  
DATED AUGUST 3, 2004, ON THE WORKING GROUP MEETING ON  
GEOSPHERE TRANSPORT AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Dear Dr. Garrick:

Your letter to Chairman Diaz, dated August 3, 2004, provided the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW) report on the results of the working group meeting on geosphere transport at Yucca Mountain. The ACNW recommended that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff continue working to make performance assessment results transparent, and that the NRC staff expand its approach for parsing and analyzing performance assessments for risk insights to include the engineered barrier systems. The NRC staff recognizes the importance of transparency and will continue to develop and apply methods for effective communication of performance assessment results.

The ACNW's letter identified a number of observations from the discussions at the working group meeting. The NRC staff will remain cognizant of these observations, in any continued interactions, with the U.S. Department of Energy, that include geosphere transport issues.

The NRC staff appreciates the ACNW's continued interest in, and input on, the technical analysis associated with geosphere transport.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
SECY

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Executive Director  
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cc: Chairman Diaz, Commissioner McGaffigan, Commissioner Merrifield, SECY

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