

September 2, 2004

Dr. Jacob D. Paz
J&L Environmental Service, Inc.
1200 S. Redwood Street #89
Las Vegas, NV 89133

SUBJECT: RADIATION BYSTANDER EFFECTS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Dear Dr. Paz:

I am responding to your July 20, 2004, letter, in which you raise two questions. First, you ask whether the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently conducting active research on radiation bystander effects and risk assessment. Second, you ask whether the NRC will revise 10 CFR Part 63 if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) makes a new radiation standard for the potential high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

In response to your first question, my staff has determined that NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research is not currently conducting active research on radiation bystander effects and risk assessment. If you are interested in securing funding from the NRC to do research in this area, instructions for submitting unsolicited proposals to the NRC can be found on NRC's public web site (www.nrc.gov) under "Contracting with NRC." Relevant links are provided for "Unsolicited Proposals." These links will provide you with information on proposal formats and relevant points of contact with the NRC's Division of Contracts.

In response to your second question, the NRC is required to make 10 CFR Part 63 consistent with whatever standards are set by the EPA as directed by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. If EPA were to issue a revised standard for Yucca Mountain, the NRC would comply with the 1992 Act, including amending 10 CFR Part 63 as needed.

We appreciate your interest in the NRC's regulatory program for the potential repository.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

cc: OCA
EDO
NMSS
State of Nevada
Senator Harry Reid

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*See Previous Concurrence

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