

Department of Energy

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office P.O. Box 98608 Las Vegas, NV 89193-8608

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John C. Hoyle, Chairman
Licensing Support System Advisory
Review Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 16H3
Washington, DC 20555

RECOMMENDATION BY NYE COUNTY, NEVADA, TO USE THE LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM (LSS) AS PART OF THE MULTIPURPOSE CANISTER (MPC) PROCESS (SCPB: N/A)

Reference: Ltr, Murphy to Hoyle, dtd 3/30/94

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) received a copy of Nye County's March 30, 1994, letter (reference) that suggested using some early form of the LSS during the certification process for the MPC. We agree that it is important that all interested parties have early access to the LSS. The feedback received from this access is expected to be invaluable in guiding further development of the system and ensuring the utility and purpose for which it was originally intended.

There are, however, several reasons why the MPC certification process is probably not a feasible avenue to accomplish the intended objectives of early user access to the system:

- 1. Foremost of these is the fact that it is currently DOE's intention that the selected contractor for development of the MPC system will also be responsible for its certification. As a consequence, it is doubtful that all related records of interest could be incorporated into the LSS database early enough to support the certification process.
- 2. It is unclear at this juncture in the development of the LSS that the software will be sufficiently developed by the time that the MPC certification process is expected to occur (early 1997).
- 3. As a matter of priority, it is believed that early access to records associated with site characterization would be of greater value to all potential LSS users and would be more in keeping with the intent of Subpart J of 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2.

As previously stated, we agree that early user access to the LSS will be very beneficial. Our current plans call for the development of the LSS prototype to be complete by as early as the initial part of 1999, well in advance of the planned license application date of 2001. We suggest that the LSS Advisory Review Panel pursue alternative avenues for providing early user access to the LSS that are more consistent with its development schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Claudia M. Newbury of my staff at (702) 794-7942.

Wealey E. Barnes Project Manager

AMSL:CMN-1019

cc:

R. A. Milner, HQ (RW-30) FORS

C. A. Kouts, HQ (RW-36) FORS

C. E. Einberg, HQ (RW-36) FORS

Samuel Rousso, HQ (RW-40) FORS

W. D. Barnard, NWTRB, Arlington, VA

R. I. Holden, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

Elwood Lowery, Nevada Indian Environmental Coalition, Reno, NV

R. R. Loux, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV T. J. Hickey, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV

Cyril Schank, Churchill County, Fallon, NV

D. A. Bechtel, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV

J. D. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, Goldfield, NV

Eureka County Board of Commissioners, Eureka, NV B. R. Mettam, Inyo County, Independence, CA

Lander County Board of Commissioners, Battle Mountain, NV

Jason Pitts, Lincoln County, Pioche, NV

V. E. Poe, Mineral County, Hawthorne, NV

L. W. Bradshaw, Nye County, Tonopah, NV

P. A. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, Chantilly, VA

William Offutt, Nye County, Tonopah, NV

M. R. Murphy, Nye County, Olympia, WA

Florindo Mariani, White Pine County, Ely, NV

P. M. Dunn, M&O/TRW, Vienna, VA

C. L. Sisco, M&O/TRW, Washington, DC
S. J. Brocoum, YMSCO, NV

R. V. Barton, YMSCO, NV

A. V. Gil, YMSCO, NV

T. W. Bjerstedt, YMSCO, NV

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