

May 5, 2005

Dr. Michael T. Ryan, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: STATUS OF HIGH-SIGNIFICANCE AGREEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Dear Dr. Ryan:

I am responding to your letter of March 25, 2005, in which you provided comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff activities related to the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Your letter stated that the agreement resolution process had been efficient and risk-informed, and the staff had completed reviews in a timely but deliberate manner.

The Committee has suggested that the staff should focus on pre-closure issues. The staff has increased its efforts in the pre-closure area over the past year. The NRC staff appreciates the Committee's comments and the Committee's interest in issues identified by the agreement resolution process.

Sincerely,

***/RA R. W. Borchardt Acting For/***

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons

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