

June 21, 2005

Monsieur Jean-Luc Lachaume
Deputy director-general
6, place du Colonel Bourgoïn
Paris Cedex 12
France

Dear Monsieur Lachaume:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) I would like to thank you for hosting us at your office in Paris and accompanying us to COGEMA-La Hague Facility in May 2005. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has contracted with COGEMA to design the preclosure surface facilities for fuel-handling operations at Yucca Mountain. The DOE has stated that the design of the Yucca Mountain facilities and operations is expected to be similar to the COGEMA-La Hague. The presentations and assistance provided by your staff and contractors substantially contributed to our program goals of using international operational experience and events to enhance decision making, and using state-of-the-art methods and risk insights to improve the effectiveness and realism of NRC actions.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Messieurs Corentin Le Doare who provided outstanding support for every aspect of our visit. In addition, I would like to thank Messieurs LeRoy, Roberts, Le Bars, and Madame Baudoin, Madame Berne, and Madame Perrin. If you ever have any questions, regarding the NRC's regulation of the disposal of high-level waste please feel free to call me at 301-415-6437 or e-mail be at CBR@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

cc: J. Strosnider
M. Federline
M. Virgilio
H. Faulkner
D. Cool
E. Collins
L. Kokajko
C. Le Doare, ASN

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