

December 15, 2005

Mr. Paul M. Golan
Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20855

SUBJECT: ATTACHED LETTER TO MR. CONRAD F. GOLICH

Dear Mr. Golan:

At the request of Senator John McCain (AZ), the attached letter has been sent to Mr. Conrad F. Golich in response to his note, dated November 4, 2005, addressing potential technical solutions for safe management of high-level radioactive waste (HLW). In the letter, we pointed out to Mr. Golich that, by statute, NRC's role is one of independent regulator of any U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposal to construct and operate a geologic repository for disposal of HLW at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Because of the distinct regulatory role of NRC, we further indicated to Mr. Golich that he should send the potential technical solutions he proposed directly to DOE. To assist him, we agreed to forward a copy of the letter to the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), along with the original information he provided to Senator McCain. By this letter, therefore, we are forwarding information to OCRWM as promised to Mr. Golich.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Enclosures:

1. Letter to C. Golich
2. Materials Sent to Senator McCain

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