



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

QA: N/A
Project No. WM-00011

July 7, 2006

OVERNIGHT MAIL

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Division of High-Level Waste
Repository Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**RESPONSE TO U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR
DESIGN CONTROL COMMITMENT**

Reference: Ltr, Reamer to Williams, dtd 1/6/06 (Summary of December 7, 2005,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Quarterly Management Meeting)

This letter clarifies our discussion at the June 6, 2006, NRC/DOE Quarterly Management Meeting and responds to your letter of January 6, 2006, in which you reiterated your request from the December 7, 2005, NRC/DOE Quarterly Management Meeting for "...a commitment from DOE to implement the design control process specified in the Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD) to the design following the Critical Decision-1 (CD-1) down-select of a preferred option." In that letter, you also asked for clarification that DOE would follow the design control process specified in the QARD to the preferred design selected during the CD-1 process.

DOE currently has an administrative hold on approving and issuing quality-affecting design and preclosure safety analysis products due to issues associated with documentation governing the flow-down of requirements; corrective actions are underway. After CD-1 is approved by the Deputy Secretary of Energy, and we have verified that the corrective actions are complete, we will release the hold on the approval and issuance of documents that support the design and preclosure safety analysis. Design Control, as specified in the QARD, will be in place for the design from that time forward. DOE currently anticipates releasing this hold in July 2006, and plans an assessment in the fall of 2006 to verify the effective implementation of the design control procedures. We will continue to keep NRC informed of the status and results of this assessment.

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As discussed above, this letter contains one regulatory commitment: DOE and its contractor will implement the design control process specified in the QARD to the design selected during the CD-1 process after approval of CD-1 (Conceptual Design Approval) by the Deputy Secretary of Energy. If you have any questions, please contact me at (702) 794-5567 or e-mail mark_williams@ymp.gov.



Mark H. Williams, Director
Regulatory Authority Office

RAO-AVG-1180

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