December 29, 2006

To Yucca Mountain Stakeholders:

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON IGNEOUS ACTIVITY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, AND INVITATION TO ACNW'S WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE "STATE OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING POTENTIAL IGNEOUS ACTIVITY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN"

Dear Stakeholder:

Last September we invited you to participate in the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Working Group meeting on the "State of Knowledge Regarding Potential Igneous Activity at Yucca Mountain." As planned, this meeting will be held at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland during February 13-14, 2007. A draft agenda for this meeting is enclosed. Also provided is the following internet weblink to download the draft ACNW White Paper. Visit: http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/idmws/ViewDocByAccession.asp?AccessionNumber=ML063530748. This report was requested by the Commission to be used as a technical basis for future decisionmaking. The report addresses the likelihood, consequences, and health effects of potential igneous activity at the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, by summarizing the state of knowledge currently available in documents and published materials from stakeholders and interested parties. The February 2007 Working Group meeting will help review the breadth, depth, and accuracy of the draft White Paper so a final version can be prepared. The draft report is now being provided to participants to allow sufficient time for adequate review. We look forward to your comments on the White Paper.

The Working Group meeting will permit staff from the DOE, NRC, State of Nevada, and other stakeholders to present the technical basis for their views on igneous activity at Yucca Mountain and also provide them an opportunity to recommend revisions to ACNW's draft White Paper. Presenters are being asked to also summarize the results of any new volcanism-related work. A group of distinguished experts will provide an overview of the challenges facing the technical decisionmaking on igneous activity at Yucca Mountain and the status of knowledge of relevant volcanic features, events, and processes. These experts will participate in panel discussions on the completeness and quality of the content of the report.

The primary questions to be addressed by stakeholders, interested parties, and panelists at this meeting are:

> Does the ACNW White Paper address the risk-significant topics related to potential igneous activity at Yucca Mountain?

Does the ACNW report adequately capture the views of the interested parties with respect to the technical basis for decisionmaking on these topics, including definitions of volcanic events, geologic periods of interest in predicting probability, igneous activity probability, magma/drift interaction leading to extrusive and intrusive scenarios, potential consequences for the risk from a high-level waste repository, etc.? If not, the positions detailed in the report should be clarified by presenters, preferably with written position papers.

We very much look forward to your comments on the White Paper. Please send any comments by the week of February 5, 2007, or present them in person at the Working Group meeting. We have sent similar letters to R. Loux (State of Nevada), E. Sproat (DOE), J. Strosnider (NRC), and E. von Tiesenhausen (Clark County, NV). If you need additional information or desire a paper copy of the white paper, please contact either Neil Coleman (301-415-7656, nmc@nrc.gov) or Antonio Dias (301-415-6805, afd@nrc.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

John T. Larkins
Executive Director

Enclosures: As stated
cc: M. Ryan, ACNW

Does the ACNW report adequately capture the views of the interested parties with respect to the technical basis for decisionmaking on these topics, including definitions of volcanic events, geologic periods of interest in predicting probability, igneous activity probability, magma/drift interaction leading to extrusive and intrusive scenarios, potential consequences for the risk from a high-level waste repository, etc.? If not, the positions detailed in the report should be clarified by presenters, preferably with written position papers.

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