July 30, 2007

Mr. Mark Gaffigan, Acting Director
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Gaffigan:

Thank you for providing the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the opportunity to review and comment on the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) draft report GAO-07-1010, "YUCCA MOUNTAIN - DOE Has Improved Its Quality Assurance Program, but Whether Its Application for a NRC License Will Be High Quality Is Unclear." The NRC staff has reviewed the draft report and generally agrees with GAO's findings and conclusions. Although we did not identify any significant issues regarding accuracy, completeness, and sensitivity of information, we have separately transmitted editorial comments to your staff. In addition, we have a comment on page 15 of the draft report, the first sentence of the second paragraph which states "...the commission staff began engaging in pre-licensing activities..." This statement should be clarified to indicate that it is the NRC staff, and not the personal staff of the Commission, who began engaging in pre-licensing activities.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Lawrence E. Kokajko, Director of the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety. Mr. Kokajko can be reached by telephone at (301) 492-3165.

Sincerely,

/RA Martin J. Virgilio Acting For/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Casey Brown, GAO
Richard Cheston, GAO

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