



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A

OCT 18 2007

OVERNIGHT MAIL

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Division of High-Level Waste
Repository Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
EBB-2B2
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

RESPONSE TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) WORK
ACTIVITY DURING A QUARTERLY TUNNEL ENTRY

Reference: Ltr, Davis to Gil, dtd 9/5/07 (The NRC Work Activity During a Quarterly Tunnel
Entry)

In the referenced letter, the NRC requested U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) approval to conduct NRC proposed staff activities in the Exploratory Studies Facility. The proposed NRC staff activities revolve around observations related to potential thermal seepage and spalling of rock fragments from the drift ceiling in the Alcove 5 Drift-Scale Heater Test. The proposed activities were described in detail in the enclosure to the referenced letter. The enclosure to the referenced letter stated that the NRC staff remains flexible to enable DOE to plan activities in a manner that ensures safety is maintained.

In response, DOE approves the NRC's request, supports NRC's conduct of the proposed activities, and appreciates the NRC staff flexibility. DOE requests that NRC coordinate this work through its On-Site Representative's Office for purposes of planning and scheduling the requested activities.

There are no new commitments in this letter. Please direct any questions regarding this letter to Neal K. Hunemuller at (702) 794-5081 or e-mail neal_hunemuller@ymp.gov.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "April V. Gil".

April V. Gil, Acting Director
Regulatory Authority Office

RAO:NKH-1507

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OCT 18 2007

cc:

M. G. Bailey, NRC, Rockville, MD
B. J. Benney, NRC, Rockville, MD
A. C. Campbell, NRC, Rockville, MD
J. H. Chen, NRC, Rockville, MD
J. R. Davis, NRC, Rockville, MD
Jack Guttman, NRC, Rockville, MD
R. K. Johnson, NRC, Rockville, MD
David Misenhimer, NRC, Rockville, MD
A. S. Mohseni, NRC, Rockville, MD
J. L. Rubenstone, NRC, Rockville, MD
N. K. Stablein, NRC, Rockville, MD
S. A. Whaley, NRC, Rockville, MD
M. C. Wong, NRC, Rockville, MD
D. B. Spitzberg, NRC, Arlington, TX
NRC On-Site Representative, NRC, Las Vegas, NV
J. D. Parrott, NRC, Las Vegas, NV
M. P. Lee, ACNW, Rockville, MD
M. T. Ryan, ACNW, Rockville, MD
W. C. Patrick, CNWRA, San Antonio, TX
Budhi Sagar, CNWRA, San Antonio, TX
J. R. Egan, Egan, Fitzpatrick, Malsch & Cynkar, Naples, FL
J. H. Kessler, EPRI, Charlotte, NC
M. J. Apted, Monitor Scientific, LLC, Denver, CO
Rod McCullum, NEI, Washington, DC
W. D. Barnard, NWTRB, Arlington, VA
Pat Guinan, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV
R. R. Loux, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV
Alan Kalt, Churchill County, Fallon, NV
Irene Navis, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV
Ed Mueller, Esmeralda County, Goldfield, NV
Ron Damele, Eureka County, Eureka, NV
Susan Cash, Inyo County, Bishop, CA
Chuck Chapin, Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
Wade Poulsen, Lincoln County, Pioche, NV
Linda Mathias, Mineral County, Hawthorne, NV
Darrell Lacy, Nye County, Pahrump, NV
Clinton Eldridge, White Pine County, Ely, NV
R. I. Holden, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC