

Department of Energy

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A

DOCKET NUMBER 63-001

AUG 12 2009

OVERNIGHT MAIL

ATTN: Document Control Desk

Director, Division of High-Level Waste

Repository Safety

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

EBB-2B2

11545 Rockville Pike

Rockville, MD 20852-2738

NOTIFICATION OF FAILURE OF CORE SAMPLE STORAGE COOLER

This is to inform you that Sample Management Facility (SMF) Cooler One failed on Saturday afternoon, June 27, 2009. This cooler was one of two coolers used to store drill core and other samples for hydrochemical testing under the instruction of the Principle Investigator. Due to severe program budgetary constraints, funds were not available to repair or replace the cooler. Cooler Two continues to operate within the specified temperature range and may do so for the foreseeable future.

There is expected to be minimal impact resulting from failure of Cooler One. As the Project Principal Investigator work has been completed, the results have been included in the License Application as appropriate, as well as in the Technical Data Management System, and the License Application has been submitted. They were being maintained per best practice and guidance of previous Principal Investigators. No new testing was envisioned or planned using these samples. As stated above, Cooler Two remains operational and its samples are still available. Some hydrochemical samples are also being retained at the U.S. Geological Survey facility in Denver, Colorado. However, the great majority of core samples are outside the coolers in the SMF warehouses and are being archived in compliance with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff assumption stated in a letter dated September 21, 1993, Holonich (NRC) to Shelor (U.S. Department of Energy [DOE]), that "unless informed otherwise by the DOE...all drill hole core will be archived through permanent closure of the repository." We are also notifying you that due to the same budgetary constraints which prevented repair or replacement of the coolers, the heating and ventilation systems have been placed out of service in the warehouses, and temperature controls are no longer being maintained.

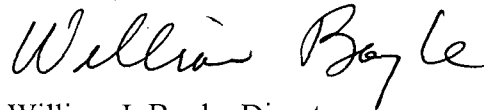
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Director, Division of High-Level Waste
Repository Safety

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There are no new regulatory commitments in this letter. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Jeffrey R. Williams at (202) 586-9620, or by e-mail to jeff.williams@rw.doe.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Boyle, Director
Regulatory Affairs Division
Office of Technical Management

OTM:CLH-0956

AUG 12 2009

cc:

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