

October 27, 2000

Mr. Dan Frehner, Chairman
Lincoln County Commission
P.O. Box 1068
Caliente, NV 89008

SUBJECT: PACKAGE PERFORMANCE STUDY COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Frehner:

I would like to thank you for your September 26, 2000, letter with comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Package Performance Study (PPS) Issues Report, prepared by Sandia National Laboratories under contract to NRC. In addition, I want to thank you for your continuing and productive support at the PPS public meetings and workshops we've conducted in Nevada and in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. NRC believes that public participation on the PPS has significantly improved the study's results to-date.

As the next step in the PPS, NRC will consider Sandia's recommendations in the issues report and the comments received on them at the meetings and in letters, and begin the process of selecting and planning the appropriate confirmatory testing and analysis. We will consider your comments as part of the process. When we have developed what we believe to be a suitable Analysis and Testing Plan, we plan to issue it and seek continued interaction through written comments, our website, and workshops/meetings (not yet scheduled). In the near future, NRC also plans to publish the compiled Sandia, stakeholder, and public recommendations and comments on the PPS, possibly as a NUREG/CR-series report, as the 'final' results of the scoping study phase of the project.

I look forward to continued involvement with you on the Package Performance Study.

Sincerely,

/S/ /RA/

Susan F. Shankman, Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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