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OVERNIGHT MAIL

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**TRANSMITTAL OF A REPORT ADDRESSING THE STRATEGY FOR RESOLUTION OF
GEOMECHANICALLY-RELATED REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL-MECHANICAL
EFFECTS (RDTME) KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE (KTI) AGREEMENTS**

This letter transmits one hard copy (enclosure 1) and one CD (enclosure 2) entitled *Resolution Strategy for Geomechanically-Related Repository Design and Thermal-Mechanical Effects, Revision 00*.

The overall Yucca Mountain Project plan for addressing geomechanically-related KTI agreement items was presented in an Appendix 7 Meeting held with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), March 12-13, 2002, at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis in San Antonio, Texas. The subject KTI agreement items were agreed upon at an NRC/U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Exchange and Management Meeting held February 6-8, 2001, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Because of the complexity of the RDTME agreements, DOE obtained an assessment of the issues and the means for resolving them from experts in the fields of geology, geotechnical assessment, and mining engineering, both from within and outside of DOE.

The enclosed report provides DOE's strategy for integrated resolution of the geomechanically-related RDTME KTI agreements (these include RDTME 3.02, 3.04 through 3.13, 3.15 through 3.17, and 3.19). The strategy includes provisions for periodic progress updates to be provided at interactions held to discuss testing results, changes to testing based on lessons learned, and future plans for closure of KTI agreement items. This report is being submitted for review in preparation for a NRC/DOE Technical Exchange on this subject planned for May 2003. A key objective of the strategy is to consolidate and close the associated KTI agreements and define a single closure objective focused on successful completion of the integrated plan.

Add Janet R Schlueter
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The enclosed CD is in portable document format (PDF). It is set to allow printing and reproduction. The files on the enclosed CD are not "zipped."

Please direct any questions concerning this letter and its enclosures to Carol L. Hanlon at (702) 794-1324 or Kirk D. Lachman at (702) 794-5096.

OLA&S:TCG-0564

for

Joseph D. Ziegler

Joseph D. Ziegler, Acting Director
Office of License Application and Strategy

Enclosures:

1. *Resolution Strategy for Geomechanically-Related Repository Design and Thermal-Mechanical Effects, Revision 00*
2. CD for Enclosure 1

cc w/encl 2:

D. S. Rom, NRC, Rockville, MD
D. D. Chamberlain, NRC, Arlington, TX
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Alan Kalt, Churchill County, Fallon, NV
Irene Navis, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV
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Andrew Remus, Inyo County, Independence, CA
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Linda Mathias, Mineral County, Hawthorne, NV
L. W. Bradshaw, Nye County, Pahrump, NV
David Chavez, Nye County, Tonopah, NV
Josie Larson, White Pine County, Ely, NV

Janet R. Schlueter

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cc w/encl 2: (continued)

R. I. Holden, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

Allen Ambler, Nevada Indian Environmental Coalition, Fallon, NV

cc w/o encls:

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