

June 17, 2003

Joel D. Berwick
Grand Junction Office
U.S. Department of Energy
2597 B $\frac{3}{4}$ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: MOAB PROJECT COOPERATING AGENCY INTERACTIONS - REVIEW OF
MAY 30, 2003, DELIVERABLES

Dear Mr. Berwick:

As discussed in our Cooperating Agency agreement for the U.S. Department of Energy's preparation of the Moab Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have reviewed the information provided by your letter of May 30, 2003. The material provided discussed conceptual cover designs for disposal cells and predicted cover performance.

We have no comments on the substance of the information provided, but have identified two minor errors related to the references: 1) the document identified in the text as "Bergman-Tabbert, D. et al. 2000" is not listed in the references, and 2) the reference to NUREG-1623 identifies the draft document. The final NUERG was published in September 2002.

We note that the conclusions discussed in the material, while suitable for its purpose in the EIS, will have to be technically supported before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) can concur in the conclusions about cover performance necessary for us to concur in the design of the disposal cell.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-6629 or mhf1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Myron Fliegel, Senior Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. WM-110

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