

December 30, 2004

Mr. Joseph D. Ziegler, Director
Office of License Application and Strategy
Office of Repository Development
U.S. Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive
North Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

SUBJECT: PRE-LICENSING EVALUATION OF PRE-CLOSURE KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE
AGREEMENT PRE.3.01 (AIRCRAFT HAZARDS)

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

By letter dated November 30, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that DOE is continuing to develop its approach to evaluate the potential hazards from aircraft crashes onto the proposed geologic repository operations area at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE has obtained new information from the U.S. Air Force regarding flight activities in the vicinity of the potential repository surface facilities. DOE is currently revising the two reports regarding aircraft hazard evaluation to reflect this information. The reports are: (1) Identification of Aircraft Hazards (TDR-WHS-RL-000001) and (2) Frequency Analysis of Aircraft Hazards for Licensing Application (CAL-WHS-RL-000001).

Information that NRC would find useful in these revised reports includes: (1) new information obtained from the U.S. Air Force on flight activities near the proposed surface facilities with projections into the future; (2) analyses that justify the methodology and assumptions used in DOE's revised approach to evaluate the hazard based on the new information; (3) the potential no-fly zone surrounding the surface facilities, including how the effects of this no-fly zone have been incorporated in the hazard analysis and the rules of engagement that may be imposed to control any inadvertent incursion; and (4) discussions on how potential hazards from jettisoned ordnance have been dealt with.

NRC considers PRE.3.01 open, based upon our review of all currently available information provided by DOE. We will be interested in reviewing the two reports cited above whenever DOE is able to provide them as part of our preparation for reviewing any potential license application by DOE for a high-level waste geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

J.D. Ziegler

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If you have any questions, please contact Dave Dancer , of my staff, at (301) 415-6618 or by e-mail at dmd@nrc.gov. You may also contact Tim Kobetz at (301) 415-5170 or e-mail at tjk@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Deputy Director
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

Letter to J.D. Ziegler from L.E. Kokajko, dated: December 30, 2004

cc:

A. Kalt, Churchill County, NV	A. Elzeftawy, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
R. Massey, Churchill/Lander County, NV	J. Treichel, Nuclear Waste Task Force
I. Navis, Clark County, NV	W. Briggs, Ross, Dixon & Bell
E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV	M. Chu, DOE/Washington, D.C.
G. McCorkell, Esmeralda County, NV	G. Runkle, DOE/Washington, D.C.
R. Damele, Eureka County, NV	C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
L. Marshall, Eureka County, NV	S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
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L. Mathias, Mineral County, NV	D. Brown, DOE/OCRWM
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P. Guinan, Legislative Counsel Bureau	R. Boland, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
R. Clark, EPA	R. Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe
R. Anderson, NEI	J. Birchim, Yomba Shoshone Tribe

cc: (Continued)

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S. Kraft, NEI

J. Kessler, EPRI

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C. Marden, BNFL Inc.

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P. Thompson, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

T. Kingham, GAO

D. Feehan, GAO

E. Hiruo, Platts Nuclear Publications

G. Hernandez, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

K. Finrock, NV Congressional Delegation

P. Johnson, Citizen Alert

A. Capoferri, DOE/Washington, DC

J. Williams, DOE/Washington, DC

A. Robinson, Robinson-Seidler

M. Dayton, City of Las Vegas

D. Wilson, Sen. Reid's Office

L. Lehman, T-REG, Inc.

J. Donnell, DOE/ORD

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M. Henderson, Cong. J. Gibbon's Office

D. Duquette, NWTRB

J.D. Ziegler

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If you have any questions, please contact Dave Dancer , of my staff, at (301) 415-6618 or by e-mail at dmd@nrc.gov. You may also contact Tim Kobetz at (301) 415-5170 or e-mail at tjk@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Deputy Director
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards


cc: See attached list

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