

July 20, 2015

Jacob D. Paz, M.D.
5440 Count Carlson Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Dear Dr. Paz:

I am responding to your letters postmarked May 8, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15147A321, and June 26, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15190A199, to Dr. Josephine Piccone, Director of the Division of Spent Fuel Alternative Strategies and the Yucca Mountain Directorate at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We are also in receipt of your letter postmarked June 18, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15191A122), to which you asked us not to respond.

In your letters, you reiterated aspects of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) application to construct a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada about which you are concerned. You specifically noted your concerns related to potential chemical hazards related to chromium and the mineral erionite. You also noted a journal article on chemical speciation.

The NRC does not generally have the statutory authority to regulate chemical hazards. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, provides authority for establishing public health, safety, and environmental standards for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Contact information for EPA is available at www.epa.gov.

I want to thank you for your continuing interest in the Nation's program to manage the safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste and for your letters calling attention to aspects of DOE's application to construct a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. Your views will be considered to the extent applicable in future actions taken by NRC with respect to DOE's license application.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James Rubenstone, Acting Director
Yucca Mountain Directorate

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/RA/

James Rubenstone, Acting Director
Yucca Mountain Directorate

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