



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 12, 2015

William J. Boyle, Ph.D., Director
Office of Used Nuclear Fuel Disposition
Research and Development
United States Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR A GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY
AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA, NUREG-2184

Dear Dr. Boyle:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has issued its draft "Supplement to the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada," NUREG-2184. This document is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML15223B243.

On August 21, 2015, the NRC will announce in the Federal Register the availability of the document for public comment. At that time, the NRC staff will send another notice to interested parties concerning the opening of the comment period and the dates and times of planned public meetings. The comment period is expected to close on October 20, 2015.

This supplement evaluates the potential environmental impacts on groundwater, and impacts associated with the discharge of potentially contaminated groundwater to the ground surface due to potential releases from a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. This supplements the U.S. Department of Energy's 2002 "Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" and 2008 "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada," in accordance with the findings and scope outlined in the NRC staff's 2008 "Adoption Determination Report for the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statements for the Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain."

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A decision on whether to authorize construction of the proposed repository can be made only after the NRC has issued the final supplement (expected early in calendar year 2016), a hearing has been conducted on contested issues, and the Commission has completed its review of contested and uncontested issues under 10 CFR 2.1023(c).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Rubenstone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Rubenstone, Ph.D., Acting Director
Yucca Mountain Directorate
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 63-001

Enclosure: draft NUREG-2184

cc: See enclosed list

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