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Mr. Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Stello:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON THE NRC STAFF REVIEW OF DOE'S FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTE REPOSITORY
SITES

On December 4-5, 1986, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' Subcommittee on Waste Management met with the NRC Staff to discuss the Staff's review of the U. S. Department of Energy's Final Environmental Assessments of the five candidate sites for a high-level waste repository. This matter was also discussed during the 320th meeting of the full Committee, December 11-13, 1986.

On the basis of the discussions at these meetings, we believe that the NRC Staff is focusing on the proper items in its review, that the Staff is taking into account the relevant phenomena in conducting its evaluations, and that its approach appears reasonable. We also concur that the Staff's primary objective should be to direct its attention to changes that the Department of Energy can incorporate into the Site Characterization Plans (yet to be prepared), rather than seeking additional changes to the existing Final Environmental Assessments.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

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