



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

January 22, 2000

Dr. Stephan Brocoun  
Assistant Manager for Licensing  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
P.O. Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

**SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S TOPICAL REPORT ON DISPOSAL CRITICALITY ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY**

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) November 19, 1999, response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Request for Additional Information on the DOE Topical Report on Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology, and to provide the schedule for completion of the NRC staff review of the DOE Topical Report. This letter, and the NRC review, has been delayed due to receipt of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's (NNPP's) October 29, 1999, letter containing its addendum to the DOE Topical Report. As conveyed to you in our December 22, 1999, letter, the NRC staff immediately directed its attention to completion of an acceptance review of the NNPP report, and has provided you with a schedule for completion of the detailed review of the NNPP report in keeping with DOE's request for NRC to finish the review by October 2000.

Acceptance of the NNPP report for detailed review means that the NRC staff is conducting a simultaneous review of the two documents in the same technical area, and utilizing some of the same personnel in these reviews. Hence, the review schedules for each of the two documents are to some extent impacted by the review of the other. Your staff has been informed of these impacts in meetings with the NRC staff on November 16, 1999, December 3, 1999, and January 5-6, 2000, and has indicated that the schedules proposed for these reviews by the NRC staff are responsive to DOE's needs.

The schedule projected for completion of the review of the DOE Topical Report is as follows:

February 25, 2000—issuance of the draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for public comment

March 15, 2000—public meeting on the draft SER

March 31, 2000—issuance of the final SER

**NRC FILE CENTER COP**

000-27

DFY2

Delete: ACNW

S. Brocoum

- 2 -

If you have any questions regarding this schedule, please contact Meraj Rahimi (301-415-6616; e-mail [MXR2@NRC.GOV](mailto:MXR2@NRC.GOV)) of my staff.

Sincerely,

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

**DISTRIBUTION:** FILE CENTER NMSS r/f HLWB r/f MRahimi SWastler DBrooks

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DWM\HLWB\Nks\doetop.wpd

OFC	HLWB		HLWB						
NAME	NKStablein/vlm		CReamer						
DATE	01/19/00		1/22/00						

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

ACNW: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO  Delete file after distribution: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

1) This document should/should not be made available to the PUBLIC \_\_\_\_\_  
(Initials) (Date)

2) This document is/is not related to the HLW program. It is related to HLW, it should/should not be placed in the LSS. \_\_\_\_\_

Letter to S. Brocoum from C. W. Reamer dated: January 22, 2000

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada  
S. Frishman, State of Nevada  
L. Barrett, DOE/Wash, DC  
A. Brownstein, DOE/Wash, DC  
S. Hanauer, DOE/Wash, DC  
C. Einberg, DOE/Wash, DC  
D. Shelor, DOE/Wash, DC  
N. Slater, DOE/Wash, DC  
R. Dyer, YMPO  
R. Clark, YMPO  
A. Gil, YMPO  
G. Dials, M&O  
J. Bailey, M&O  
D. Wilkins, M&O  
M. Voegelé, M&O  
S. Echols, M&O  
B. Price, Nevada Legislative Committee  
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau  
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV  
E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV  
J. Regan, Churchill County, NV  
H. Ealey, Esmeralda County, NV  
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV  
A. Remus, Inyo County, CA  
T. Manzini, Lander County, NV  
E. Culverwell, Lincoln County, NV  
J. Wallis, Mineral County, NV  
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV  
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV  
J. McKnight, Nye County, NV  
N. Stellavato, Nye County, NV  
D. Kolkman, White Pine County, NV  
D. Weigel, GAO  
W. Barnard, NWTRB  
R. Holden, NCAI  
D. Morgan, NIEC  
R. Arnold, Pahrump County, NV  
J. Lyznicky, AMA  
R. Clark, EPA  
F. Marcinowski, EPA  
R. Anderson, NEI  
R. McCullum, NEI  
S. Kraft, NEI  
J. Kessler, EPRI  
G. McKnight, Pahrump, NV  
R. Wallace, USGS  
R. Craig, USGS  
W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD  
S. Trubatch, Winston & Strawn