

April 6, 2000

Mr. William G. Kennedy  
Acting Director  
Office of Strategic Planning  
and Program Evaluation  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I am responding to your letter of February 23, 2000, requesting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) review of the working draft of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Strategic Plan. The NRC staff has reviewed those portions of the draft plan that are related to NRC's regulatory responsibilities.

A major focus of the review was objective 4 of the Environmental Quality Business Line, which identifies strategies for the potential geologic repository at the Yucca Mountain site. The major milestones and schedules included in these strategies are consistent with the assumptions that the Commission has made in the Nuclear Waste Safety section of our draft Strategic Plan. Maintaining consistency between NRC and DOE programs in this cross-cutting area is necessary for achieving our draft Strategic Plan strategy of keeping pace with the National high-level waste management program and completing our preparations for licensing before DOE submits its license application for the Yucca Mountain site. Based on this review, however, we are proposing a few minor changes (see enclosure).

The Commission appreciates your offer to coordinate a review of the NRC Strategic Plan within DOE. We released a draft of our Strategic Plan on February 28, 2000, for review and would appreciate any comments promptly.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: As stated

## Enclosure

- On page 17, the first sentence of the third bullet under “Key External Factors,” should be revised to “...(NRC) and the DOE are engaged in efforts to **develop** their respective.....” and the words “**specific radiation**” should be deleted.
- On page 17, the second sentence of the third bullet under “Key External Factors,” should be revised to “The NRC may need to **modify** its proposed rule.....”
- On page 17, the third sentence under the eighth bullet under “Key External Factors,” should be revised to “The site **characterization** schedules are based.....” (The words “**cleanup performance**” should be deleted).
- On page 56, the second sentence of the third paragraph should be revised to “The NRC and the Department of Energy are engaged in efforts to **develop** their respective **site-specific** implementing regulations.
- On page 56, the third sentence of the third paragraph should be revised to “The NRC may need to **modify** it proposed rule.....”
- On page 64, Performance Goals, an additional bullet should be added following the fourth bullet to read “**Submit a license application amendment to the NRC to receive and possess waste in 2008.**”
- The fourth strategy of Objective 4 on page 65 should be revised to “....of waste in the repository in 2010, **and any supplements to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, regarding new information or changes.**”