

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300 Arlington, VA 22201

December 8, 2003

Mr. Robert R. Loux Executive Director Agency for Nuclear Projects 1802 N. Carson Street, Suite 252 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Loux:

Thank you for your November 25 letter dealing with internal criticality risk at Yucca Mountain and the attachments to the letter.

The Board's mission is to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of Department of Energy (DOE) activities involving the packaging, transportation, and disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Clearly criticality is one of those activities. The Board has reported on criticality in the past and monitors ongoing criticality developments and activities of the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Thus, we appreciate your providing this material on criticality to us.

Thank you again for your letter and its attachments.

Sincerely,

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Michael L. Corradini Chairman