



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

August 20, 2008

Mr. Robert R. Loux
Executive Director
State of Nevada
Nuclear Waste Project Office
1761 E. College Parkway, Suite 118
Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Mr. Loux:

Thank you very much for your letter dated July 31, 2008, commenting on the potential effects of drip shields on repository performance calculations included in the Department of Energy's application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for authorization to construct the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Your fault tree representation is an effective expression of your views on this important matter of drip shield installation.

At a hearing held on July 15, 2008, before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, Committee on Energy and Commerce, I presented testimony in which I commented on technical factors identified by the Board that could affect the installation of drip shields. I have enclosed a copy of the Board's testimony for your information.

The Board appreciates receiving the analysis and figures included with your letter. As part of its ongoing technical review of DOE activities, the Board intends to continue its evaluation of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. John Garrick". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

B. John Garrick
Chairman

Enclosure