



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MAR 14 2000

Dr. Jared L. Cohon Chairman  
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard Suite 1300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201 Dear Dr.

Dear Dr. Cohon:

Enclosed is a copy of *the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program Plan, Revision 3*. This revised Plan supersedes the *Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program Plan, Revision 2*, dated July 1998.

Since Revision 2 was published, the Program has completed the viability assessment of the Yucca Mountain, NV, candidate repository site and issued a draft environmental impact statement. The Environmental Protection Agency has published proposed new, site-specific radiation protection standards for a repository at Yucca Mountain, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed new repository licensing regulations, and the Department of Energy has released a draft of its revised repository siting guidelines. While these events represent significant forward movement for the Program on several fronts, there were substantial budget reductions in FY 1999 and FY 2000. It is therefore appropriate that the major milestones, schedules, and work plans in the 1998 Program Plan be updated to reflect and build upon these developments.

This revision of the Plan provides Program participants and other interested parties with a description of Program activities and milestones for fiscal years 2000 through 2005. It describes the steps the Program will take to prepare the Secretary of Energy's site recommendation to the President, if the Yucca Mountain site is found suitable for development as a repository, and, if it is designated as the repository site, to submit a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for authorization to construct a repository. The Program's ultimate challenge is to provide reasonable assurance to society that an operating geologic repository at a specific site meets the required standards of safety.

This revised Plan is intended to ensure that the momentum that has been achieved in the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program will be maintained and enhanced in the years ahead. However, attainment of the milestones contained in this Plan remains critically dependent on adequate Program funding.

If you have any questions about our revised Program Plan, please contact Charles Teclaw at (202) 586-7292.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan Itkin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Ivan Itkin, Director  
Office of Civilian  
Radioactive

Waste Management

Enclosure