

June 29, 2000

Dr. English Pearcy, Manager
Geohydrology and Geochemistry Element
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, Texas 78238-5166

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF MAJOR MILESTONE - MM 1402.861.040 - "INPUT TO
UNSATURATED AND SATURATED FLOW UNDER ISOTHERMAL CONDITIONS
ISSUE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT, REVISION 3 - LETTER REPORT"

Dear Dr. Pearcy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the subject report. It was sent on June 14, 2000, two days early. I find the product to be technically and programmatically acceptable. It provides input to our Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR), and is therefore predecisional. It should not be entered as a public document. The IRSR will be published later this year.

The report does an excellent job of updating Section 5 of our IRSR. This section gives the status of each subissue under our Key Technical Issue: Unsaturated and Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions. The report updates subissues that were previously closed at the staff level, and helps define paths to resolve those subissues that remain open. The milestone relates to five sections of the Yucca Mountain Review Plan. These include 3.2.1.3.3 (Quantity and Chemistry of Water Contacting Waste Packages and Waste Forms); 3.2.1.3.5 (Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Flow); 3.2.1.3.6 (Flow Paths in the Unsaturated Zone); 3.2.1.3.8 (Flow Paths in the Saturated Zone); and 3.2.1.3.12 (Dilution of Radionuclides in Groundwater due to Well Pumping). If you have any questions, please call me at (301) 415-6615.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Neil Coleman, Program Element Manager
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

cc: J. Linehan
B. Meehan
B. Sagar, CNWRA

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