

August 17, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Barbara Meehan
Division of Contracts and Property Management
Office of Administration

THRU Deborah DeMarco
Program Management, Policy Development and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Mysore Nataraja, *ira*
Program Element Manager, RDTME KTI
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: RDTME IRSR, Rev. 3 - Letter Report (MM 1402-671-030)

The Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) submitted its input to staff's Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR) for the Repository Design and Thermal-Mechanical Effects Key Technical Issue (RDTME KTI) in its letter report (CNWRA MM 1402-671-030), dated July 27, 2000. I have conducted a quick review of the subject report and have no comments at this time. I have decided to postpone a detailed review of the subject report by other KTI teams, because of a need to restructure the IRSR to reflect recent management guidance. The guidance is to develop two separate documents to deal with pre- and post-closures issues. The existing structure of the IRSR will be continued until the final revision (Rev. 4, expected to be completed in FY 2001) to focus on the post-closure issues. A second report (similar to the current IRSRs in structure) will document and track issues related to pre-closure.

The technical content of the subject major milestone deliverable is considered acceptable to the staff. The final product will be prepared by the staff with the CNWRA's assistance following the guidelines listed below:

- (1) The final version of Rev. 3 of the RDTME IRSR will retain the same format as the previous revision. It will deal with the four subissues (design control process, seismic design, thermal-mechanical effects and seals), and the status of resolution will reflect the discussions and understanding reached at the April 25-26, 2000, KTI meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy;
- (2) All discussions related to pre-closure subissues will be separated, and a new document (yet to be named) will be initiated. This report will deal with: (1) Pre-closure Safety Analysis (PCSA); (2) Design of the Geologic Repository Operations Area; (3) Retrievability; (4) Pre-closure aspects of the Engineered Barrier System design; (5) Design and Implementation of the Performance Confirmation Program; (6) Repository Operations; and (7) Permanent

Closure, Decontamination and Decommissioning. The actual order of presentation and the approach shall be consistent with the Yucca Mountain Review Plan; and,

(3) All other changes done to the previous revision (Rev. 2) to make the IRSR consistent with other IRSRs will be retained (guidance previously established shall remain unaffected).

The Post-closure part of the RDTME IRSR (Rev. 3) is due for completion by September 30, 2000, and, therefore, the revised final product will be prepared by the staff with the CNWRA's assistance before the end of August 2000. The CNWRA input for the pre-closure portion, however, is a substantial part of planned work at the CNWRA during FY 2001. Suitable dates for intermediate and major milestones will be established after discussions with the CNWRA management.

Please pass on the above plan of actions to the CNWRA for its consideration. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this memorandum, please contact me at 301-415-6695 or e-mail me at msn1@nrc.gov.

cc: J. Linehan, PMDA

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cc: J. Linehan, PMDA

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