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Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses

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June 19, 1995
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ATTN: Dr. Philip Justus
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Mail Stop 7F-26
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Review on Chapter 2, LANL Volcanism Topical Report

Dear Dr. Justus:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the CNWRA Letter Report on the review of Chapter 2 in the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) 1995 Volcanism Status Report by Crowe and others. This Letter Report was requested as part of Task 441 activities in support of CNWRA prelicensing interactions and reviews.

The Letter Report addresses the apparent LANL responses to NRC comments made regarding Chapter 2 in the 1993 preliminary draft of the Volcanism Status Report and new or recurring areas of concern regarding basic data in Chapter 2 of the final report. Of the 20 original comments made regarding the 1993 draft report, 12 have not been addressed, 5 have been partially addressed, and 3 have been answered in the 1995 final report. New concerns regarding basic data in Chapter 2 of the final report focus on pervasive inaccuracies in reporting LANL and other researcher's work, significant amounts of data from published sources are not cited, and concerns that several major volcanic centers are present but undetected in the Yucca Mountain Region based on evaluation of published information outside of the 1995 status report. At this time, the 1995 status report cannot be used to accurately determine the location, age, and character of many basic igneous features in the Yucca Mountain Region. Additional evaluation of the interpretations and conclusions in the 1995 status report are apparently unwarranted until this basic information is reported accurately.

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Please contact Brittain Hill (210-522-6087) if you have additional questions regarding this Letter Report.

Sincerely,


H. Lawrence McKague
Manager, Geology/Geophysics

HLM/cg

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