

November 17, 2000

D. C. Agarwal
Vice-President, Technical Marketing
Krupp VDM Technologies Corp.
11210 Steeplecrest
Suite # 120
Houston, Texas 77065-4939

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 31, 2000, LETTER CONCERNING RADWASTE CONTAINERS FOR
THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Dear Mr. Agarwal:

Thank you for sending the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission the information entitled, "Which Alloy Better Serves the Need of the Rad-Waste Package Alloy 59 or Alloy 22 or both" and the information provided from Corrosion 2000, "Solving Critical Corrosion Problems in Marine Environments by an Advanced Ni-Cr-Mo Alloy 59 UNSN06059" and "Case Histories on Solving Severe Corrosion Problems in the CPO and Other Industries by an Advanced Ni-Cr-Mo Alloy 59 UNSN06059," along with Materials Data Sheet No. 4030.

The staff has reviewed the information provided. I understand that the information on Alloy 59 has been presented to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses and to TRW, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) contractor for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This is appropriate, since DOE is responsible for the development and testing of any material proposed for use within the repository. Both Catholic University and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have evaluated Alloy 59 in side-by-side tests with Alloy 22. Recently, Catholic University presented results on Alloy 22 and Ti grade 7 to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste but did not incorporate Alloy 59 results.

The information provided on corrosion potentials and corrosion rates is sufficiently informative that the staff does not require a presentation at this time. I hope that you will keep the staff informed of any future results of work related to the effect of corrosion, or the thermal stability, of Alloy 59 as it compares with Alloy 22. If you have any questions, or wish to provide additional information, please contact Tamara Bloomer of my staff, at 301-415-6626 or via Internet at TEB@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

C. William Reamer, Chief
High Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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