

August 2, 2001

Dr. English C. Pearcy, Manager
Geohydrology & Geochemistry
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road Building 189
San Antonio, Texas 78228-0510

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE 1402-871-100:
"SUMMARY AND SYNTHESIS OF CHARACTERIZATION DATA RELEVANT
TO RADIONUCLIDE TRANSPORT THROUGH ALLUVIUM IN THE VICINITY
OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA - LETTER REPORT"

Dear Dr. Pearcy:

The Intermediate Milestone (IM1402-871-100), a letter report, whose final title is "Summary of Early Warning Drilling Program Data Relevant to Radionuclide Transport in the Alluvium South of Yucca Mountain, Nevada" submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 11, 2001, has been programmatically and technically reviewed by the NRC staff. In a discussion with the lead author, it was agreed that some minor revisions will be made based on the comments generated by the reviews. This product is acceptable.

As described in the letter report, the alluvium in Fortymile Wash is a potentially important part of the path in the saturated zone through which radionuclides will travel. Characterization of the alluvium is continuing. The primary source of geochemical data comes from the Nye County Early Warning Drilling Program (EWDP). Additionally this report provides independent results of mineralogical and chemical analyses of well cuttings from selected EWDP wells obtained by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses. The report will be a valuable resource to the NRC staff for regulatory reviews and model development, making readily available the geochemical data relevant to radionuclide transport. This report consolidates geochemical data from several organizations using Nye County EWDP wells through October 2000. The conversion of the data from hard copy into electronic format greatly improves its accessibility.

If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact me at (301) 415-6597.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Bradbury
Program Element Manager
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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