

September 27, 2001

Dr. Gordon W. Wittmeyer
Manager, Performance Assessment
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road
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SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF IM 20.01402.761.110, "TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON
TOTAL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - SITE
RECOMMENDATION (TSPA-SR)/LICENSE APPLICATION REVISION 00"

Dear Dr. Wittmeyer:

The Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) documented the completion of the subject Intermediate Milestone (IM) on August 16, 2001, in a letter. The work documented in the letter fulfills the IM 20.01402.761.070 in the FY00 CNWRA Operations Plan and is accepted. The letter was received on August 20, 2001, and will be made available to the public.

The issue-resolution technical exchanges were among the most important activities that the Total System Performance Assessment and Integration (TSPAI) Key Technical Issue (KTI) team had to accomplish during this fiscal year. The successful resolution of the TSPAI KTI subissues was made possible by the support provided by the CNWRA staff. I would like to recognize the work of all of the CNWRA staff who contributed to resolution of the TSPAI KTI subissues. Each of the CNWRA subissue leads played an important role in completing the necessary reviews, developing comments, and reaching the necessary agreements with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Others also provided important contributions. In particular, I would like to recognize the efforts of: Stefan Mayer and Roland Benke (model abstraction), Osvaldo Pensado (scenario analysis), Sitakanta Mohanty (multiple barriers), and James Weldy, Michael Smith and Sitakanta Mohanty (overall performance objective). In addition, Patrick LaPlante, James Weldy, and Roland Benke made significant contributions to the biosphere-related reviews.

Although the TSPAI KTI subissues are now designated as "closed pending," there will continue to be a significant amount of work to be done reviewing future DOE documents, interacting with the DOE on the issues discussed during the issue resolution technical exchanges, and working with the other KTI teams as they conduct their reviews. With respect to conducting and documenting the future TSPAI reviews of DOE information, I would like to stress the importance of the following:

- (1) The Yucca Mountain Review Plan will provide the structure for our reviews,
 - (a) It should be used for any future reviews of applicable DOE documents;
 - (b) When difficulties are encountered when using the Yucca Mountain Review Plan, suggested improvements should be identified;

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- (2) Any existing agreements or DOE delta-table entries, particularly those acquired during the TSPA Technical Exchanges, relevant to the review should be identified; and
- (3) The documentation of the review should address the DOE information in light of the relevant acceptance criteria and agreements.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6628 or (jrf2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,
/RA/

James R. Firth, Element Manager
Total System Performance Assessment
and Integration KTI
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: B. Meehan, CAB1/ADM
J. Linehan, PMDA

