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Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
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QA: N/A

OCT 01 2001

OVERNIGHT MAIL

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**RESPONSE TO U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) LETTER
RELATED TO UNSATURATED AND SATURATED ZONE FLOW UNDER ISOTHERMAL
CONDITIONS (USFIC) KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE (KTI) AGREEMENTS**

This letter transmits information requested by the NRC in their June 20, 2001, letter. Enclosure 1 is a compact disk containing the two synthetic meteorological data files requested in the NRC letter (Item 3a in Section 3). Enclosure 1 also completes the Total System Performance Assessment and Integration agreement 3.20.

In addition, Enclosure 2 to this letter is a U.S. Department of Energy response to the attachment to NRC's letter proposing clarifications to existing USFIC agreements, agreements considered closed, and request for response to NRC audit observations identified in February 2001.

Please direct any questions concerning this letter and its enclosures to Timothy C. Gunter at (702) 794-1343.

Stephan Brocoum
Assistant Manager, Office of
Licensing and Regulatory Compliance

OL&RC:TCG-1748

Enclosures:

1. CD Containing Two Synthetic Meteorological Data Sets
2. DOE Comments on NRC's Clarification of NRC/DOE Agreements and Discussion of New Items pertaining to the Unsaturated and Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions Key Technical Issue

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DOE Comments on
NRC's Clarification of NRC/DOE Agreements and
Discussion of New Items pertaining to the
Unsaturated and Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions Key Technical Issue

- 1) **Clarification of USFIC Agreements.** DOE and the NRC discussed the information requested by NRC regarding Subissue 4, Agreements 1 through 5, at the Total System Performance Assessment and Integration (TSPAI) Technical Exchange (TE), held the week of August 6, 2001, in Las Vegas. New and modified agreements were established at the conclusion of that meeting.
- 2) **Completed USFIC Agreements.** DOE notes the closed status of USFIC Subissue 5, Agreements 7 and 14.
- 3) **New Items**
 - a) USFIC Subissue 3: The two synthetic meteorological data files of interest to the NRC are contained on a CD enclosed with this letter. These files are associated with DTN GS000208311221.003.
 - b) USFIC Subissue 4. This item was discussed at the August 6, 2001 TSPAI TE. See TSPAI agreement 3.25.
 - c) USFIC Subissue 4. This item was discussed at the August 6, 2001 TSPAI TE. See TSPAI agreement 3.29.
 - d) USFIC Subissue 4. This item was discussed at the August 6, 2001 TSPAI TE. See TSPAI agreement 3.26.
- 4) **Other Items.** DOE discussed the NRC Audit Observer Inquiries ARP-01-02-1, RP-01-02-2, and ARP-01-02-3 at the August 6, 2001 TSPAI TE. NRC Audit Observer Inquiry ARP-01-02-4 and ARP-01-01-01 were addressed by letter dated August 16, 2001