

September 10, 2002

Dr. English Pearcy, Manager  
Geohydrology and Geochemistry Element  
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189  
San Antonio, Texas 78238-5166

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE - IM 1402.861.210  
(HYDROGEOLOGIC PROPERTIES OF THE ALLUVIAL BASIN BENEATH  
FORTY MILE WASH AND NORTHERN AMARGOSA VALLEY, SOUTHERN  
NEVADA)

Dear Dr. Pearcy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the subject report, which was sent to us on August 23, 2002, a full week ahead of schedule. I note that the transmittal letter was incorrectly dated as April 23, 2002. This report from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) is programmatically and technically acceptable for public release. The report provides very useful and timely input to our ongoing issue resolution work, including our ongoing review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) hydrostratigraphic cross-sections for the site and vicinity. The CNWRA report is an excellent compilation of currently available, preliminary information being provided by DOE, including data from continuing well drilling and testing under Nye County's Early Warning Drilling Program. In particular, the report does an excellent job of integrating review work under the Key Technical Issues of Structural Deformation and Seismicity and Unsaturated and Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions (USFIC).

Under USFIC, this CNWRA report relates to the subissue of ambient flow in the saturated zone and likely dilution mechanisms. The report focuses on one of our integrated subissues, i.e., 4.2.1.3.8 (Flow Paths in the Saturated Zone) which also is a section of the Draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan. If you have questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6615.

Sincerely,  
/RA/

Neil Coleman, Program Element Manager  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: J. Linehan  
B. Meehan  
B. Sagar, CNWRA

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cc: J. Linehan  
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B. Sagar, CNWRA

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