

October 10, 2002

Dr. Gordon Wittmeyer, Element Manager
Performance Assessment
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, Texas 78238-5166

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF INTERMEDIATE MILESTONES 20.01402.941.210,
"ANALYSES AND PREPARATIONS FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OUTREACH
MEETINGS ON FINAL 10 CFR PART 63," AND 20.02402.941.220, "ANALYSES
AND PREPARATIONS FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS
ON THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN REVIEW PLAN"

Dear Dr. Wittmeyer:

In your letter of September 26, 2002, you report completion of "Analyses and Preparations for Support of Public Outreach Meetings on Final 10 CFR Part 63" and "Analyses and Preparations for Support of Public Outreach Meetings on the Yucca Mountain Review Plan." These submissions fulfill Intermediate Milestones 20.01402.941.210 and 20.01402.941.220, respectively. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its technical and programmatic review of the subject activities and materials. These materials are acceptable and fulfill the requirements set forth in the fiscal year 2002 Operations Plans for the Public Outreach Element. The subject materials were prepared for public information, contain no predecisional content and are publicly available or will become part of other publicly available materials.

The deliverables represent extensive support and preparation for six NRC public meetings. These meetings took place April 8-10, 2002, in Beatty, Tonopah, and Ely, Nevada, and May 21-23, 2002, in Pahrump and Las Vegas, Nevada. To help NRC staff prepare for these meetings, Center staff reviewed and updated information sheets and handouts used at earlier public meetings. Modifications were made to reflect important changes in the high-level waste program, NRC's final Part 63 regulations, and current contact information and website addresses. The Center also helped develop valuable new information sheets that explain NRC's key technical issues and the Yucca Mountain Review Plan in plain language. Center staff and management participated with enthusiasm, either in person, or by telephone, in multiple dry run exercises to help NRC staff orchestrate presentations at the public meetings. Mike Smith provided able and versatile support at every meeting and Pat Mackin made effective presentations at the three meetings on the Yucca Mountain Review Plan.

Finally, the Center supported NRC's highly successful On-Site Representative's Open House meeting held September 17, 2002. Three members of the Center staff attended the open house to help answer questions about the Center and its support of NRC's role at Yucca Mountain. Center staff, coordinated by Mike Smith, in close cooperation with NRC staff, developed an impressive electronic presentation of the Center's technical capabilities that support NRC's independent regulatory mission. NRC staff field tested this outstanding

presentation at the open house. Like many of the other materials developed by the Center for the Public Outreach element, this presentation will continue to be of value in future NRC outreach activities.

In closing, I note that these and the other tasks itemized in your letter, provide ample evidence of the important and respected role the Center plays in support of NRC's HLW outreach efforts. Your active participation and that of your staff, as members of NRC's HLW public outreach team, continues to assist the NRC staff as we strive to increase public confidence in NRC's HLW regulatory program. If you or the author of the deliverables have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6674.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janet P. Kotra, Ph.D.
Program Element Manager
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Linehan
B. D. Meehan

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Janet P. Kotra, Ph.D.
 Program Element Manager
 High-Level Waste Branch
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 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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cc: J. Linehan
 B. D. Meehan

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