

March 24, 2003

Joseph D. Ziegler, Acting Director
Office of License Application and Strategy
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Repository Development
P.O. Box 364629 M/S 523
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-8629

SUBJECT: CLOSURE LETTER REGARDING CONTAINER LIFE AND SOURCE TERM
KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE AGREEMENT 2.06. STATUS: COMPLETE

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

During a Technical Exchange and Management Meeting held on September 12-13, 2000, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reached agreement on a number of issues within the Container Life and Source Term (CLST) Key Technical Issue (KTI). Subsequently, during a Technical Exchange and Management Meeting held on April 15-16, 2002, DOE indicated that the information requested in CLST 2.06, rather than being provided in Analysis and Model Reports, would be submitted early in the form of a Letter Report. By letter dated January 22, 2003, DOE submitted information to address CLST 2.06.

CLST 2.06: "Provide the technical basis for the mechanical integrity of the inner overpack closure weld. DOE will provide the documentation in AMR, ANL-UDC-MD-000001, Rev. 00, Design Analysis for UFC Waste Packages in the next revision, prior to LA."

The NRC has reviewed the DOE information addressing KTI agreement item CLST 2.06. The staff understands that design changes eliminated the inner overpack deep penetration closure weld and replaced it with a spread ring for the inner shell lid with a seal weld for closure. Based on the change in design the staff agrees that we will list CLST 2.06 as "complete." However, while the staff understands that the technical basis addressing the waste package inner shell lid closure system mechanism integrity will be evaluated in the preclosure event sequence calculations in the License Application (LA), we have no path forward to address the issue prior to LA. NRC staff expects to be provided an early opportunity to review the DOE technical basis for the waste package inner shell lid closure system mechanism integrity to determine the need, if any, for additional agreements. Members of my staff will call your staff to arrange for this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniel Rom at 301-415-6704 or by e-mail at dsr@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janet R. Schlueter, Chief
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: See attached distribution list

Letter to J. Ziegler from J. Schlueter dated March 24, 2003

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K. Finfrock, NV Congressional Delegation

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