

November 5, 1997

Dr. H. Larry McKague, Manager
Geology/Geophysics Program Element
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, Texas 78238-5166

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF "COMMENT ON 'STRIKE-SLIP FAULT SYSTEM IN AMARGOSA VALLEY AND YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA' BY R. A. SCHWEICKERT AND M. M. LAHREN," ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

Dear Dr. McKague:

The subject report, "Comment on 'Strike-Slip Fault System in Amargosa Valley and Yucca Mountain, Nevada,' by R. A. Schweickert and M. M. Lahren" by J. A. Stamatakos and D. A. Ferrill, was submitted by letter dated October 22, 1997, from B. Sagar to S. Fortuna. The report is a manuscript to be submitted to *Tectonophysics* as a rebuttal to Schweickert and Lahren's paper published in *Tectonophysics* in 1997.

We have completed a programmatic review and find that the subject report is acceptable for publication, provided that the wording of several sentences is changed to appear less offensive in tone. In our view, changing the phrases "mischaracterization of faults..." and "misinterpretation of...data," to phrases that read to the effect, "incorrectly interpreted faults..." and "incorrectly interpreted data..." get to the bases of disagreements and appear (in our opinion) to be milder accusations. Milder is better, as long as the technical points are clearly and forcefully made, as Stamatakos and Ferrill have done. The language of a rebuttal generally arouses sensitivities because it is necessarily sharp and terse and requires a written defense. Frankly, this is a subjective judgment on our part. "You incorrectly interpreted faults..." appears less offensive than "you mischaracterized faults...", although, there's not much difference between "you incorrectly interpreted" and "you misinterpreted." We appreciate the suggestions made by J. Stamatakos and the agreement we reached on this matter.

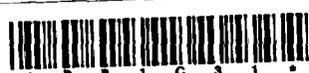
The subject report should not be placed in the PDR because it will be revised soon. The Center should resubmit the modified report by November 30, 1997. The modified version may be submitted for publication and to the PDR. This report was reviewed by John Trapp and Philip Justus.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
Philip S. Justus
GLGP Program Element Manager
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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cc: J. Linehan
B. D. Meehan
B. Caudle



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