

May 10, 1999

Dr. Stephan J. Brocoum  
Assistant Manager for Licensing  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

**SUBJECT: REQUEST BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR SAMPLES FROM PEÑA BLANCA, MEXICO**

Dear Dr. Brocoum:

In your April 9, 1999, letter you requested certain samples from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) for analysis by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos). The samples requested are from the Center's sample collection of the Nopal I uranium deposit at Peña Blanca, Mexico. We have approved your request and have requested the Center to provide Los Alamos the samples by May 14, 1999. The samples will be sent to Dr. Mike Murrell at Los Alamos. The Center staff person responsible for providing the samples you requested is Dr. David Pickett. He can be reached at (210) 522-5582 or by e-mail at dpickett@swri.edu.

We have requested that the Center provide Los Alamos with the samples and any existing documentation, either in electronic or hard copy, of the Quality Assurance documentation for the samples they send. The Center will provide, to the extent possible, splits of the powdered rock used in their uranium-series analyses. The 12 samples that will be sent are from rocks that are in the "forbidden region" and will span the distance from the mineralized zone to the furthest range of fractures. In addition, aliquots from water samples from borehole 12, and from the Level + 0 adit, will be provided to Los Alamos if sufficient water remains in the archived samples.

If you have any further questions regarding our response to your request for samples from Peña Blanca, please contact Bret Leslie of my staff at (301) 415-6652 or by e-mail at bwl@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Orig. Signed By:

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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**Ticket HLWB-002**

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. William Reamer".

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: see next page