

December 14, 1998

Dr. John Helton  
Department 6848  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Mail Stop #0779  
1515 Eubank Street, S.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-0779

Dear Dr. Helton:

Enclosed are three copies of a paper titled, "Development of a Performance Assessment Capability in the Waste Management Programs of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission." This paper is for the special topical edition of the journal *Risk Analysis*, which you are organizing on the subject of performance assessment.

I appreciate your great patience and forbearance in allowing me and my coauthors to submit this paper after your deadline. We certainly appreciate the opportunity to have our contribution included in this prestigious endeavor. Our tardiness is a reflection of the press of business in the Division of Waste Management.

I understand that you will distribute this paper to two peer reviewers, who will keep it confidential and who will not copy or distribute it. Based on my discussions with you, we will also give this paper further review and, possibly, editing, while it is undergoing your peer review. Special areas of our concern, that we would like to improve in the interim, are reduction of the length of the paper (with the concomitant focusing) and assuring that the information content is current.

We eagerly await the input from your peer reviewers. We will make every effort to provide a quick turnaround of the final text based on those comments. Once again, thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Norman A. Eisenberg,  
Senior Advisor for Performance Assessment  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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