

August 5, 1999

Mr. Pat Lee
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road, Bldg. 189
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE AT THE DOE/NRC TECHNICAL EXCHANGES ON TOTAL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Dear Mr. Lee:

Over the past two years, I have attended three video conference meetings between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). The most recent of these was on May 25 - 27, 1999. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the support you provided to those meetings. Your efforts were key to making them successful. In particular, your skillful management of the video conference facilities, both at CNWRA and NRC, allowed DOE and NRC staff at the CNWRA and at NRC Headquarters to interact effectively. In addition, you were always very responsive in addressing our requests during the meeting and in resolving unforeseen audiovisual difficulties as they occurred. It was my observation that all participants were very satisfied with the video conference facilities at the CNWRA. One indication of this satisfaction is the fact that both NRC and DOE eagerly selected CNWRA as the site for the latest meeting.

We at NRC appreciate all your efforts to ensure that everything went smoothly. I look forward to working with you and others at CNWRA on future performance assessment-related meetings that are carried out through video conferencing.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Keith I. McConnell, Chief
Performance Assessment and Integration Section
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

cc: Dan Mitchell, SwRI
Wesley Patrick, CNWRA
C. William Reamer

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