

**Sandia National Laboratories**

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185

**JAN 07 1991**

Mrs. Pauline Brooks  
Office of Nuclear Materials  
Safety and Safeguards  
Division of High-Level Waste  
Geosciences & Systems Performance Branch  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
MS 4H3  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mrs. Brooks:

This is to inform you of the status of the three outstanding NUREG/CR reports that SNL is completing under FIN A1165 and estimated completion dates for the camera-ready manuscript. The following table summarizes this information.

Subtask Number	Report Title	Estimated Completion Date
2.4a	Guidelines for Judging the Validity of Models for Performance Assessment of HLW Repositories	February 28, 1991
2.6d	A Comparison of Parameter Estimation and Sensitivity Analysis Techniques ...	May 15, 1991
3.2	Techniques for Determining Probabilities of Events and Processes ... : Vol. II	March 31, 1991

We are currently completing the revision of the Subtask 2.4a report; we anticipate that it will be signed-off by SNL management before the end of February. Addressing the NRC comments in the 3.2 report has taken longer than anticipated because of (1) length of the report, (2) nature of the comments, and (3) obtaining copyright approval for some figures in the report. The 2.6d report has been completed and is going through SNL management sign off. However, because one of the authors (R. Hanson) is a U.S. Geological Survey staff, the report needs to be approved by the Survey as well. We have had several discussions with the Survey on this matter, and the attached letter from R. D. McNish is their commitment to complete their review and approval process by May 1, 1991.

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P. Brooks

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I trust the information provided is useful to you. If you have any questions, please call me at (505/FTS)844-5303.

Sincerely,



Evaristo J. Benano  
Waste Management Systems  
Division 6416

attachment: as stated

copy to:

6416 N. E. Olague

6416 L. L. Price

6416 D. A. Zimmerman

6416 1183.000 File

6416 Day File



# United States Department of the Interior



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Water Resources Division  
300 West Congress, FB-44  
Tucson, Arizona 85701-1393

January 2, 1991

Dr. Ernesto Bonano, Div. 6416  
Sandia National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 5800  
Albuquerque, NM 87185

Dear Dr. Bonano,

I would like to give you an update on the progress of final colleague review and approval by the U.S. Geological Survey for our report "A Comparison of Parameter Estimation and Sensitivity Analysis Techniques and Their Impact on the Uncertainty in Ground-Water Flow Model Predictions." We received a reviewable draft of the report from Mr. Tony Zimmerman in the third week of November. We have arranged for Mr. Peter VanMetre of our Arizona District Office to complete a final technical review by the middle of January or Mr. Mike Karlinger of our National Research Program to review the report by the end of January. Since this is a rather large report covering a sensitive topic, I would anticipate a minimum of a month to six weeks for this technical review. This review in combination with the NRC technical staff review and the technical review by Mr. Peter Davies and Mr. Marsh LaVenue of Sandia Laboratories will satisfy the minimum requirements for a Survey technical review.

After the authors address the comments by Mr. VanMetre or Mr. Karlinger the report must be approved at our regional office. After the report is approved at the regional office, the report is forwarded to our headquarters for final approval by the Director of the Geological Survey. The final editorial review by Sandia staff may also need to occur prior to regional and final Survey approval. Mr. Hanson's last report on the Avra Valley ground-water model, which is heavily referenced in this report, went through these final approval stages in less than two months. Reports from our organization are highly regarded which is why we feel that Survey approval would be advantageous for this document.

We would be happy to talk directly with NRC staff regarding any concerns they may have about these final stages of our report-review protocol. Barring any unforeseen delays we could anticipate Survey approval of this document by May 1, 1991. If you need to contact me you may call me at (602) 670-6112 or FTS 762-6112.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. MacNish  
District Chief