



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
(formerly National Bureau of Standards)
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

April 17, 1989

Mr. Joseph O. Bunting, Chief
Engineering Branch
Division of High Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Bunting:

Our current contract, FIN A-4171 on Evaluation and Compilation of DOE Waste Package Test Data, requires biannual as well as monthly reports. Ever since the level of funding for this contract was halved from the original level of about one million per year, we have felt that this level of reporting is not warranted. This is a proposal aimed at the reduction of these reporting requirements so that our productivity may be increased.

Under the previous budget, a lower-level staff member was available for assisting with preparation of the monthly and biannual reports, but under the current budget that slot has been abolished. Thus, higher-level staff must be used to prepare these reports. In addition to the reports, formal, written comments are sent by your staff. These require written responses from my staff and the process is detracting significantly from our productivity under this contract. Therefore, my staff and I are proposing an alternative that should be more productive.

We feel that a quarterly reporting system would free us from the reporting burden and permit more intellectual effort to be devoted to the materials problems that must be addressed to serve your interests. In addition, most if not all of the comments of your staff could be handled informally, e.g. by marking suggestions in text and by telephone suggestions, etc. This would free us to devote our time to deficiencies noted by your staff as well as to the development of point papers, interpretive reports, laboratory reports, and other significant products that will be most useful to your efforts on high-level waste.

Therefore, we would propose to report on activities for January, February, and March of 1989 in a quarterly report dated March 1989. Please advise me or our Program Manager, C. G. Interrante, at your earliest convenience. Subsequent FY89 reports would cover April through June and July through September.

Sincerely,

E. N. Pugh, Chief
Metallurgy Division

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