

Dr. Stephan J. Brocoun
 Assistant Manager for Licensing
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
 P.O. Box 30307
 North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

July 17, 1999

SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY COMMENTS ON U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ISSUE RESOLUTION STATUS REPORT KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE ON THERMAL EFFECTS ON FLOW - REVISION 1

Dear Dr. Brocoun:

This responds to your June 28, 1999, letter to me on the above subject. We appreciate receiving your comments that bear on the resolution of the Key Technical Issue on thermal effects on flow (TEF). Of the seven comments you provided, all except comment No. 4 have been addressed in Revision 2 of the TEF Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR), which is scheduled to be completed by July 30, 1999. Your comment No. 4 suggests some revisions to Table 6 to provide more information on the results of past U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sensitivity analyses related to the effect of individual reflux parameters on the amount of water contacting waste packages. Because of recent improvements to the NRC total system performance code, and recent U.S. Department of Energy repository design changes, prior sensitivity analyses are now considered "dated", and new sensitivity analyses are in progress. Your suggestions in comment No. 4 will be considered as we complete and document the results of the new sensitivity analyses. These new analyses are scheduled to be completed by September 10, 1999. We will provide you with a copy of the contractor report containing the results of the analyses when available. The results of the analyses will also be summarized and included in Revision 3 of the TEF IRSR, scheduled for next fiscal year.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Jeffrey Pohle at (301) 415-6703, jap2@nrc.gov, or David Brooks at (301) 415-7284, djb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]
 C. William Reamer, Chief
 High-Level Waste & Performance
 Assessment Branch
 Division of Waste Management
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

cc: See attached list

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