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87/06/10

✓ FR/WILLIAMS/6/10/87

- 1 -

Wm-RES
WM Record File
D1020
WEA

WM Project 10, 11, 16
Docket No. _____
PDR ✓
LPDR ✓ (B, N, S)

Dr. Roy E. Williams
Williams and Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 48
Viola, Idaho 83872

Distribution: _____

Dear Dr. Williams:

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

The Hydrology Section is revising the Generic Technical Position (GTP) on groundwater travel time. In addition to taking into account comments received on the Draft GTP, revisions will: 1) provide a simpler definition of pre-waste-emplacment groundwater travel time in keeping with the Commission's intent that groundwater travel time be a simple measure of overall repository quality and 2) shift emphasis away from prescribing how to treat variability in groundwater travel time calculations to establishing the staff's position on the need for DOE to develop methods for identifying, treating, and expressing uncertainty in demonstrating compliance with 10 CFR 60.113(a)(2). The topical reports you are preparing on uncertainty will be used to support this aspect of the groundwater travel time GTP.

To meet the objective of providing a simple definition of pre-waste-emplacment groundwater travel time, the staff intends to bound the concept of groundwater travel time by the following conditions:

1. The wording in 10 CFR 60 regarding "pre-waste-emplacment groundwater travel time along the fastest path of likely radionuclide travel from the disturbed zone to the accessible environment" is inviolate.
2. It should be based on estimates of average seepage velocity derived principally from hydrologic coefficients measured in the field during site characterization.
3. It should not consider mechanisms of solute transport.
4. Pathways should be based on realistic physical conditions determined through site characterization.
5. Post-waste-emplacment conditions, processes, pathways, etc., are not to be considered.

To assist us in this effort, it is requested under Task 5 of NRC Contract NRC-02-85-008, FIN D1020, that you and Dr. Jack Sharp of your staff attend a meeting to be held on July 14-17, 1987 at the NRC Headquarters. The manner in which pre-waste-emplacment groundwater travel time is to be determined will be worked out at this meeting. You and Dr. Sharp should come prepared to present your respective ideas on groundwater travel time as per telephone instructions from Mr. Fred Ross. A meeting agenda is attached.

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WM Project: WM 10, 11, 16
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- 2 -

The action taken by this letter is considered to be within the scope of the current contract NRC-02-85-008. No changes to cost or delivery of contracted services and products are authorized. Please notify me immediately if you believe that this letter would result in changes to cost or delivery of contracted products.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jeffrey A. Pohle, Project Officer
Technical Review Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety
and Safeguards

Attachment:
Meeting Agenda

PRE-WASTE-EMPLACEMENT GROUNDWATER TRAVEL TIME MEETING
JULY 14-16, 1987

AGENDA

TUE 7/14/87

8:30-9:00 AM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
VERMA
POHLE
ROSS

9:00-12:00 PM

OPENING COMMENTS ON DEFINITION OF GWTT (1 hr. ea.)
R. CODELL
R. WILLIAMS
D. STEPHENS
P. DAVIS
M. LOGSDON
J. SHARP

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00-4:00 PM

COMMENTS CONTINUED

4:00-5:00 PM

PLAN/ORGANIZE WORKING SESSIONS FOR DEVELOPING DEFINITION
OF GWTT

WED 7/15/87

8:30-12:00 PM

WORK SESSION

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00-5:00 PM

WORK SESSION

THUR 7/16/87

8:30-12:00 PM

WORK SESSION

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00-5:00 PM

COMPLETE MEETING SUMMARY/ACTION ITEMS

JUN 10 1987

FR/WILLIAMS/6/10/87

- 3 -

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LETTER TO: Dr. Roy E. Williams
Williams and Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 48
Viola, Idaho 83872

FROM: Jeffrey A. Pohle, Project Officer
Technical Review Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: GENERIC TECHNICAL POSITION (GTP) ON GROUNDWATER TRAVEL TIME

DATE:

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(Mailed by the WMDCC)
6/2/87 1:30
Date 6/2/87 Time 1:30