



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

June 27, 1988

Mr. Charles Peterson
Technical Review Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Peterson:


This is our reply to your informal request for general technical assistance, rendered under Task 4 of FIN-A-4171-7, on the following topic: NBS Comments on Waste Acceptance Preliminary Specifications for the Defense Waste Processing Facility High-Level Waste Form, (OGR/B-8, Defense Waste Processing Facility, December 1986 and OGR/B-9, West Valley Demonstration Project, April 1987).

Our reading of the subject report indicates that questions concerning sampling, composition, and homogeneity, and the related issues of durability and leachability that would be of concern to us are not addressed directly in this report.

We expected to find in this report specifications for the composition of the waste form. In addition, we looked for the supporting data that would indicate why a given compositional range had been chosen and specified. However, as Section 1.3 on Control of Radionuclide Release Properties indicates, this site-specific information shall be indicated later after tests have been specified by the repository. Further, Appendix B, R2 indicates that procedures and criteria are to be part of the Site Characterization Plan and will be dependent upon performance allocations for the waste form. It further states "These procedures and acceptance criteria will be added to the specifications when they become available."

These comments were developed from the views of Dr. E. Plante and a consultant, Mr. B. Adams.

Sincerely,


Charles G. Interrante
Program Manager
Corrosion Group
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cc: Neville Pugh, Chief
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