

September 11, 2003

Asadul H. Chowdhury,
Manager, Mining, Geotechnical, and Facility Engineering
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
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SUBJECT: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL-MECHANICAL EFFECTS (RDTME)
KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO.20-
06002.01.101.380: REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO AGREEMENT RDTME.3.01

Dear Dr. Chowdhury,

We have received and reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) document entitled, "NRC Review of DOE Documents Pertaining to Key Technical Issue Agreements (RDTME 3.01)" dated July, 2003. The subject report summarizes the CNWRA review of the CRWMS M&O report, "In Situ Field Testing Processes," the Bechtel SAIC report, "Responses to RDTME 3.01 Request for Additional Information received February 28, 2002," and data files, MO0104SPATEM00.001 ESF Temperature and Humidity Monitoring Record, MO0107SPATEM00.002 Summary of ESF Temperature and Humidity Monitoring Record, and MO0203SPAESF00.003 ESF Temperature and Humidity Monitoring Record, all received in response to the NRC request for additional information for NRC- Department of Energy (DOE) agreement RDTME 3.01. Taking into consideration new information related to modified ground support design presented at the NRC-DOE Technical Exchange on Repository Design and Thermal-Mechanical Effects (May 6-8, 2003), the CNWRA review concludes that DOE has presented sufficient information to close the RDTME agreement 3.01. I agree with the Center's conclusion.

I have noted some problems with the numbering of footnotes in the subject report and I have discussed this with Darrell Dunn of your staff. For example, footnote number 6 on page 2 should be a letter from NRC to DOE rather than a letter from DOE to NRC. I am requesting through this letter that a revised version of the report with proper numbering of the footnotes be sent to NRC electronically for our use.

A. Chowdhury

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The work completed to date as presented in the subject report and further modified to address the format (footnote numbering) issue will be considered to fulfill the Center's contractual obligations for this Intermediate Milestone. If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-6695 or via e-mail (msn1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely.
/RA/

Mysore Nataraja,
Program Element Manager
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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