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LPDR- Wm-10 (2)  
Wm-11 (2)  
Wm-16 (2)

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June 12, 1987

009/3.4/DBS.003  
RS-NMS-85-009  
Communication No. 163

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Division of Waste Management  
Geotechnical Branch  
MS-623-SS  
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. Jeff Pohle, Project Officer  
Technical Assistance in Hydrogeology - Project B (RS-NMS-85-009)

Re: Semi-Annual Update of Salt Conceptual Model Evaluation Report

Dear Mr. Pohle:

This cover letter transmits to the NRC staff Daniel B. Stephens and Associates' (DBS) semi-annual update of the Conceptual Model Evaluation Report for the Palo Duro Basin (Subtask 3.4). The report has received a management review by M. Logsdon of Nuclear Waste Consultants. The reports have been completed under DBS's quality assurance procedures in compliance with NWC's project-specific QA Plan.

The DBS update report reviews the team's progress to date in evaluating conceptual model issues. Since the team's approach to evaluating these issues has involved not only the review of specific data (discussed in the Subtask 3.2 reports) but also the analytical evaluations performed under Subtask 3.5, the bulk of the report is a discussion of the technical evaluations completed and in progress. The update report concludes with a set of recommendations, including proposals for two significant areas of new effort: hydrochemical conceptualizations of the Palo Duro Basin and stochastic analysis of uncertainty.

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

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WM Record File: D1021  
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Distribution:

J. Pohle

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Submission of this update report completes the contract deliverable for Subtask 3.4 at this time. Please note that this is the final Subtask 3.4 Report under the current contract. However, in anticipation that the contract will be extended, DBS will continue to undertake effort within the scope of Subtasks 3.2 and 3.5 that will be available for incorporation into subsequent Subtask 3.4 updates if the contract is, in fact, extended.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the attached report, please contact me immediately.

Respectfully submitted,  
NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS, INC.



Mark J. Logsdon, Project Manager

Att: Salt Conceptual Model Evaluations - Semi-Annual Update Report

cc: US NRC - Director, NMSS (ATTN: PSB)  
HLWM (ATTN: Division Director) - 2  
Mary Little, Contract Administrator  
HLWM/TRB (ATTN: Branch Chief)

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