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- 1 -

Susan K. Whatley
 Engineering Analysis and Planning
 Chemical Technology Division
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 P.O. Box X
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830

FEB 06 1985

Dear Ms. Whatley:

SUBJECT: CONTRACT NO. NRC-50-19-03-01, FIN B-0287, ORNL NO. 41-37-54-92-4,
 "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN GEOCHEMISTRY," DECEMBER MONTHLY PROGRESS
 REPORT

I have reviewed the December monthly progress report dated January 14, 1985.
 Based on my review, I have the following comments:

Tasks 1 - 3 BWIP, NTS, and Salt Geochemical Technical Assistance

- Progress to date is satisfactory.
- ORNL EA comments for the Hanford Site, NNWSI and 7 salt sites were received and incorporated, as appropriate, into our EA comments.
- Attachment 1, "Expected Nuclear Waste Repository Near-Field Performance In Three Salt Basins" is for your information. Please pass a copy of this document on to Gary Jacobs, and have it entered into the ORLOOK data base.

Task 4 Short-term Geochemical Technical Assistance

- Progress to date is satisfactory.

I have reviewed the draft summary of the workshop on "Application of Geochemical Models to High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository Assessment. Overall, I consider the document to be in good order, and I am pleased with this entire effort. My comments are as follows:

- (1) The use of the term "etc." throughout the document is distracting. Please consider including those items accounted for by using "etc", or drop "etc" and suggest the list(s) is (are) not intended to be complete.
- (2) Page ix - please consider using a standard disclaimer.
- (3) Page 34 and 35/Section 3.4. The need for coupled models was discussed last summer at an OCED workshop on the coupling of hydrological and geochemical models (see attachment 3). This section is not clear with respect to

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whether "coupled models" is referring to "mega-codes" or not. This should be clarified.

- (4) Page 37, 38, and 39 Section/3.5. This section needs to be rewritten so that it is clear to the reader that DOE, not NRC, has the lead in developing models and obtaining/developing input data.

In general, these comments have been discussed with Gary Jacobs during the week of January 28. John Starmer is currently reviewing this document. His comments will be transmitted to you by February 13, 1985. If you have any questions, please contact me immediately.

Task 5 Project Management

- o Progress to date is satisfactory.
- o Attachment 4 is a current NRC structural organization chart for your information. If ORNL has similar material for its organization, I would like to have a copy for my files.
- o Attachments 5 and 6 are two BNL reports for your information.

The action taken by this letter is considered to be within the scope of the current contract NRC-50-19-03-01/FIN B-0287. 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

David J. Brooks
Geochemistry Section
Geotechnical Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:
As Stated

FC : WMG : : : : : :
 NAME : DJBrooks;mt : : : : : :
 DATE : 85/02/6 : : : : : :