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Ms. Susan K. Whatley
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 P.O. Box X
 Chemical Technology Division
 Building 4500 N, MS 211
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Ms. Whatley:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF JANUARY MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR B0290 "LABORATORY EVALUATION OF DOE RADIONUCLIDE SOLUBILITY DATA AND SELECTED RETARDATION PARAMETERS, EXPERIMENTAL STRATEGIES, LABORATORY TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES"

I have reviewed the January, 1985 Monthly Progress Report dated February 12, 1985 for the subject contract. Based on my review, progress to date is satisfactory.

I am glad to hear that you have received the Yucca Mountain samples and they look good. Later this week, I will call you to discuss the preliminary steps of the sorption studies using this material.

In the sample characterization section of the report there is no indication of what the next step will be in trying to explain the lack of correlation between grain size and BET surface area determinations (October Monthly Progress Report). Inasmuch as BET is a commonly used method for surface area analysis in scientific investigations including sorption experiments, explanation for the relationship between grain size and surface area seems justifiable. I will call you later this week to discuss your plans.

The action taken by this letter is considered to be within the scope of the current contract FIN B-0290. No change to cost or delivery of contract products is authorized. Please notify me immediately if you believe this letter would result in changes to costs or delivery of contract products.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

John W. Bradbury
 Geochemistry Section
 Geotechnical Branch
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

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