

NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS INC.

8341 So. Sangre de Cristo Rd., Suite 14  
Littleton, Colorado 80127  
(303) 973-7495

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See Pocket for encl. PDR-(1)  
PDR WM-10(2)  
WM-11(2)  
WM-16(2)  
WM Project 10, 11, 16  
DBS Project No.  
PDR  
X LPDR (B, N, S)

Distribution:  
Pohle

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

June 24, 1987

009/3.5/DBS.004  
RS-NMS-85-009  
Communication No. 175

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

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for Encl.

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

Re: Semi-Annual Update of Salt Numerical Evaluation Report

Dear Mr. Pohle:

This cover letter transmits to the NRC staff copies of two technical reports from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates' (DBS) semi-annual update of the Conceptual Model Evaluation Report for the Palo Duro Basin (Subtask 3.5). The reports have received a management review by M. Logsdon of Nuclear Waste Consultants. The reports have been prepared under DBS's quality assurance procedures in compliance with NWC's project-specific QA Plan.

The DBS technical reports include:

- o DBS Technical Report #9: Analyses of the Importance of Aquitard Diffusion During Transport by Horizontal Ground-Water Flow
- o DBS Technical Report #10: Analysis of Repository Temperature Required for Induced Thermal Ground-Water Convection.

Note that these reports are being transmitted ahead of the scheduled update, for the convenience of the NRC Staff in providing timely review and comment.

Also, please note that DBS Technical Report No. 10 was completed and submitted well before NWC had received Dr. Codell's review of DBS Report No. 6. Mark Logsdon has directed DBS to provide NWC with a response to the Codell review and to suspend work on all additional thermal studies until NWC and the NRC Staff can provide additional direction on this matter.

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WM Project: WM-10, 11, 16

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WM Record File: D1021

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Submission of this update report completes the contract deliverable for Subtask 3.5 at this time. Please note that this is the final Subtask 3.5 Report under the current contract. However, in anticipation that the contract will be extended, DBS will continue to undertake effort within the scope of Subtask 3.5 and that additional technical reports will be submitted up to the end of the current contract. If the current contract is, in fact, extended, DBS will submit subsequent update reports on the schedule proposed in the original contract.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the attached reports, please contact me immediately. DBS and NWC look forward to review and comment on these reports at the level of technical and regulatory insight that was shown by the Codell reviews.

Respectfully submitted,  
NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS, INC.



Mark J. Logsdon, Project Manager

Att: Salt Numerical 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)

bc: M. Galloway, TTI  
J. Minier, DBS  
L. Davis, WWL

Nuclear Waste Consultants, Inc.