

NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS INC.

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October 04, 1988

009/PM/NWC.029
NRC-02-85-009
Communication No. 288

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Technical Review Branch
OWFN - 4H3
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: **Mr. Jeff Pohle, Project Officer**
Technical Assistance in Hydrogeology - Project B (NRC-02-85-009)

Re: **Withdrawal of DBS from NWC Team**

Dear Jeff:

Some six months ago we notified you and Dr. Chery of the desire of which is Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, (DBS), to leave NWC's team providing contract support to the high-level waste program in the area of hydrology under contract NRC-02-85-009. The circumstances are as follows:

1. DBS committed to the NWC in September, 1985; that commitment included an understanding that they would remain available to NWC and the NRC during the active period of any contract that NWC had with NRC and for 6 months thereafter.
2. Upon NWC's selection for contract RS-NMS-85-009, DBS were assigned studies associated with the Palo Duro Salt Site. The work on this site effectively terminated in December of last year, when congress elected to proceed with the Yucca Mountain Site.
3. Other than minor work "tidying up" the Salt portion of the project, and a more major effort to complete the Yeh/Stephens Task 5 report, DBS has had little activity and no new direction from the NRC in the last 6 months under NRC-02-85-009. DBS has now completed all its contracted tasks successfully.
4. NWC was retained by the CNWRA as a subcontractor in October, 1987. However, as DBS had had little involvement in the Tuff portion of the program, the Center has not chosen to significantly involve DBS in that effort.

As a result, NWC considers that DBS has fulfilled its obligation to the NRC to remain available for a period of six months beyond the allocation of contracted tasks, and we therefore propose to allow DBS to terminate its contract with NWC effective October 15, 1988. Should the NRC have any

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objection to this proposal, would you please indicate this to us in writing by close of business on October 14, 1988.

In completing this association with DBS, we at NWC wish to place on record our appreciation for the excellent contributions made by DBS to the NRC through this contract. Their timely, thoughtful, and focused reports and reviews form a permanent addition to the state of knowledge of the performance of repositories in salt and of the application of hydrologic principles to nuclear waste repositories in general.

Respectfully submitted,
NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS, INC.



Adrian Brown, President

cc: US NRC - Director, NMSS (ATTN PSB)
HLWM (ATTN Division Director)
Edna Knox, Contract Administrator (Documentation only)
HLTR (ATTN Branch Chief)
R. Code11, HLOB
D. Chery, HLTR

Daniel B. Stephens, DBS
Dr. John Russell, CNWRA

AB:ce