

FEB 24 1988

426.1/D1020 POHLE

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Dr. Roy E. Williams  
Williams and Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48  
Viola, Idaho 83872

Dear Dr. Williams:

I have reviewed your monthly progress report for January dated February 8, 1988. This report describes the status of Williams and Associates Technical Assistance under Contract No. NRC-02-85-008. Overall, progress made to date is satisfactory.

Task 1-NNWSI

No Comments

Task 2-BWIP

As indicated in my letter of February 2, 1988, activities described under subtask 2.3. should be terminated. This is warranted under contract modification nine executed on January 20, 1988. Based on my telephone conversation with Mr. Winter on February 18, 1988, I realize you had not received my letter prior to completion and submission of this progress report. However, it was clear from our discussion that those activities ended in January. Note that the progress reports are primarily for work done during the previous month and it would be helpful to use the "past tense" in future reports so on one can mis-interpret previous month activities as current month activities.

Task 3-SRPO

Refer to Comment on Task 2. In addition, please return information and documents related to the J. Friemel #1 well review immediately with no further work in this area.

Task 5

Again, refer to Comment on Task 2. In addition, terminate all activities related to review of WIPP testing technologies. For the time being, hold the existing records for this project. Because the NRC expects to remain cognizant of the WIPP performance assessment program, work could be tasked in the future.

I have read your proposal on conceptual hydrogeologic model definition using expert systems. As we have discussed in several telephone conversations, I do not see the need for any software related to "expert systems" at this time, because I do not envision the NRC having the time and resources to implement it. Indeed, it would be DOE's responsibility to do so. However, your proposal

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has made me think about the "process" which an "expert" uses to synthesize information into a "dynamic" description of a groundwater system. In relation to DOE's program, I think we are interested in two primary items. First, what is DOE's description of the groundwater system? To review that description we will have to know something about how they went about formulating this description and I don't think that will only entail reviewing the field work. In some way we will have to be aware of what "Judgements" were made. This leads directly to the second item; when is that description adequate? At some time in the future I am sure we will be tasked with developing criteria for a license application review plan which, when applied by the staff, would be intended to lead to a finding of "adequate" or "not adequate." I do not have a solid grasp of the nature of these criteria at this time. My preferred approach would be to allot some resources to sketching out some trial examples for debate but internal discussions have not yielded any encouragement so any further effort would be counter-productive. Therefore, any further exploration of ideas resulting from your proposal will only be at the direction of the NRC.

I have no further comments.

The action taken by this letter is considered to be within the scope of the current contract NRC-02-85-008. No changes to costs or delivery of contracted products are authorized. Please notify me immediately if you believe that this letter would result in a change to costs or delivery of contracted products.

Sincerely,

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Jeffrey A. Pohle, Project Officer  
Hydrology Section  
Technical Review Branch  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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LETTER FOR: Dr. Roy E. Williams  
Williams and Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48  
Viola, Idaho 83872

FROM: Jeffrey A. Pohle, Project Officer  
Hydrology Section  
Technical Review Branch  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR JANUARY 1988

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