

September 26, 2003

Asadul H. Chowdhury,
Manager, Mining, Geotechnical, and Facility Engineering
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6220 Culebra Road P.O. Drawer 28510
San Antonio, Texas 78228-5166

SUBJECT: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL - MECHANICAL EFFECTS KEY
TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO.20-06002.01.102.332:
REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO AGREEMENT PRE.7.04

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

We have received and reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) document entitled, "The Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Review of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Key Technical Issue Agreement Response to PRE.7.04 for a Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Project No. WM-011" dated September 5, 2003. The subject report summarizes the CNWRA review of the Bechtel SAIC company report, "Weld Flaw Evaluation and Nondestructive Examination Process Comparison Results for High-Level Waste Package Manufacturing Program," received to fulfill requirements of NRC/DOE agreement PRE. 7.04.

The CNWRA review presented in the subject report is considered acceptable to the NRC staff to fulfill the Center's contractual obligations for this Intermediate Milestone. If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-6695 or via e-mail (msn1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,
/RA/

Mysore Nataraja,
Program Element Manager
High-Level Waste Branch
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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