

Stephens & Associates

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March 4, 1988

Mr. K.C. Chang
Mail Stop WF1-4H3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Chang:

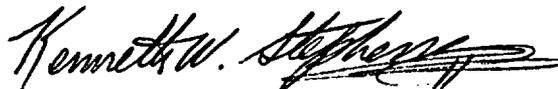
VOUCHER FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Attached are the original and required two copies of the voucher for my services February 22-March 4, 1988.

My activities covered by the voucher are described in the attached Progress Report.

I have now worked 120 days in this consulting year. There are 10 days left.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth W. Stephens

Attachments
V22

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PDR WMRES EECSEPHE
A-4165 DCD

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NH14

PROGRESS REPORT

Kenneth W. Stephens

February 22-March 4, 1988

Introduction

During this reporting period, my activities were devoted to:

- o The February 24 briefing at NRC and follow-up discussions with NRC staff.
- o Preparation for transition of performance assessment work from consultants to personnel of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis (Southwest).

Briefing

The briefing, structured as a participatory workshop, was presented on February 24. There was good participation by NRC staff from the various branches, as well as by the support contractors (Sandia and NBS) who attended.

The discussion illustrated the necessity for more involvement of the technical branches and their contractors in performance assessment. I was very encouraged by the calls I later received from NRC people who wanted to follow-up on items that arose during the presentations and discussions.

One unmistakable conclusion from the briefing is that because the performance assessment methodology is somewhat complicated and because successful implementation involves informed participation by all the players, the transition of the work from us consultants to the Southwest people will be a challenge. My activities in that regard are discussed below.

Transition

I am rapidly reaching the limit on my consulting days with NRC. Accordingly, I am using the remaining time to collect my thoughts regarding where we stand and what needs to be done in the future.

After carefully reassessing the past five years work with NRC, I am now pondering items such as those listed below, and will summarize my findings in the remaining Progress Reports.

- o Desirable modifications/extensions of the CONVO code.
- o Relationship of CONVO to overall NRC waste management program.
- o Integration of waste package work and far-field performance assessment.
- o Mechanisms for enhanced involvement of NRC branches in:
 - Selection/development of process models and input data
 - Use of performance assessment findings in formulating NRC policies/requirements applied to DOE.
- o Role of NRC corrosion contractors in supporting performance assessment.
- o Ways NRC can deal with Southwest's current lack of experience in certain areas relevant to performance assessment.
- o Relationship between NRC and DOE regarding performance assessment methodologies and the modeling and data necessary for implementation.
- o Pros and cons of using a significantly different overall approach to performance assessment.