

MAR 09 1988

Mr. Kenneth W. Stephens  
Stephens & Associates  
10424 Windfall Court  
Damascus, MD. 20872

Dear Mr. Stephens:

We have reviewed your progress report for February 8-9, 1988. We are satisfied with the progress reported. Our comments are presented in the following paragraphs.

Workshop

The Workshop on Engineered Barrier System (EBS) Performance Assessment Development on February 24, 1988 was attended by thirty-six people including representatives from Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque; Southwest Research Institute and National Bureau of Standards. Judging from the participation and the response of the attendees, we consider the workshop to be a great success in encouraging dialogues on waste package and engineered barrier system (EBS) performance between participants of different disciplines. Please accept our thanks for a well done job.

Methodology Development

The NRC recognizes the general inadequacies of existing methodologies (NRC's, DOE's and others') on EBS performance analysis. The NRC plans to continue its developmental work on the CONVO code to incorporate the improved understanding of processes involved in waste package failure analysis and radionuclide containment.

To guide this developmental work, we are requesting you and other consultants (R.Moler, G.Fuller and C.Boyars) to document and prioritize the recommendations on CONVO data need and how CONVO may best be improved, modified and integrated with repository performance codes. The purpose of CONVO has been and remains to provide NRC with an evaluation independent of

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DOE's EBS performance analysis. DOE's present favored site is Yucca Mountain (Tuff) at Nevada. Please coordinate your work with the other consultants (R.Moler, G.Fuller and C.Boyars) and submit your recommendations in a letter report to us by March 21, 1988.

Since October 15, 1987, the NRC has awarded the Southwest Research Institute a contract to establish a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) for the operation of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). NRC's nuclear waste research and technical assistance works which are presently being performed by DOE laboratories, other organizations and consultants will be transferred to the Center (CNWRA). The work on EBS performance analysis is scheduled to be transferred to the Center starting from March 1988.

We are requesting that you provide us and the Center assistance in this transfer so that the EBS work may be continued with little delay.

The actions taken by this letter are considered to be within the scope of our current consulting contract with you. Please notify me if you believe that this letter would result in changes to costs or delivery of contracted products.

Sincerely,

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Kien C. Chang  
Technical Review Branch  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: R.Moler  
G.Fuller  
C.Boyars

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LETTER TO: Mr. Kenneth W. Stephens  
Stephens & Associates  
10424 Windfall Court  
Damascus, MD 20872

FROM: Kien C. Chang  
Technical Review Branch  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT WM-88034

DATE:

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CONCURRENCES

ORGANIZATION/CONCUREE	INITIALS	DATE CONCURRED
HLTR/KChang/jm	<i>JK</i>	88/03/9
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