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6220 Culebra Road • San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A. 78228-5166
(210) 522-5160 • Fax (210) 522-5155

May 8, 2003
Contract No. NRC-02-02-012
Account No. 20.06002.01.111

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. James Firth
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Division of Waste Management
Performance Assessment and High-Level Waste Integration Branch
Mail Stop 7C-18
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Transmittal of Guidance for Displaying Information Necessary for Demonstrating Compliance with the Postclosure Public Health and Environmental Standards—Letter Report (IM 20.06002.01.111.320)

Dear Mr. Firth:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the subject report in fulfillment of the Information Needs for Review of Postclosure Public Health and Environmental Standards—Letter Report (IM 20.06002.01.111.320). Your expectations for this report, sent to us on December 31, 2002, were very helpful for its preparation. Your request to include a review of the books by Edward Tufte on the display of quantitative information was received during the week of March 31, 2003. The books were reviewed and specific guiding principles on the construction of graphs, charts, and tables were identified and referenced in the report. The graphics contained in the report were refined based on Tufte's guiding principles to the extent that they were clearly beneficial. Throughout the report the authors emphasize that the quantitative information needs that they have outlined and the suggested method used to display the information are not regulatory requirements. However, the authors do suggest that following the guidance provided in the report will improve the efficiency, accuracy, and thoroughness of a reviewer's job. In addition, the report clearly states in several locations that the graphics are only examples and are not illustrative of the expected performance of the proposed repository.

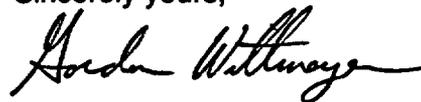


Washington Office • Twinbrook Metro Plaza #210
12300 Twinbrook Parkway • Rockville, Maryland 20852-1606

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The graphics contained within the report are intended to be printed in color—the graphs can be printed in black and white, but important information is lost. If you have any questions about the content and format of the enclosed report or would like additional color or black and white copies of the report, please contact Roland Benke (210) 522-5250 or me at (210) 522-5082.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon W. Wittmeyer, Ph.D.
Manager, Performance Assessment

GW/rm

cc:	M. Leach	W. Reamer	T. McCartin	J. Danna	W. Patrick	O. Pensado
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