

October 10, 2003

Asadul H. Chowdhury,  
Manager, Mining, Geotechnical, and Facility Engineering  
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
6220 Culebra Road P.O. Drawer 28510  
San Antonio, TX 78228-5166

Subject: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL-MECHANICAL EFFECTS KEY  
TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO.20-06002.01.103.350:  
ASSESSMENT OF SUBSURFACE TRANSPORTER SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR THE  
PROPOSED REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

We have reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Intermediate Milestone report, IM No.20.06002.01.102.350 "Assessment of Subsurface Transporter Safety Systems for the Proposed Repository at Yucca Mountain." The report documents CNWRA review of the analyses used by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to estimate the runaway frequency of the transporter system including derailment and tip-over on to the drift wall during waste package transport operations. The CNWRA review concludes that the DOE approach for calculating the runaway frequency is reasonable.

Our reviewers have noted some minor comments on the contents of the subject report which will be communicated to you via e-mail by our staff. The subject report is considered acceptable to fulfill the CNWRA'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](mailto:msn1@nrc.gov)).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

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DATE	10/9/03		10/10/03	

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