

NOTE TO: Rex Wescott
HLHP

FROM: Mysore Nataraja
HLGT

Rej 3/23/93

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF RESEARCH - PROGRAM PLAN (NUREG - 1406)

As per your request of February 26, 1993, we have reviewed the draft of the subject document. The Engineering Section reviewed applicable portions of Chapters 2 and 3, Appendix A.3, and Appendix B (User Needs). The review focused on the research program being consistent with the HLW licensing program and complimenting the HLWM's technical assistance program by meeting the licensing needs. For the areas reviewed, the research program generally satisfied the above criteria. However, we have the following comments on this draft document.

Research program on Seals (User Need topic R301).

1. The current scope does not include the evaluation of the effectiveness of seals in mitigating the flow of gas and vapor through the seals. The release of carbon-14 and other volatile components from spent fuel as a source of vapor or gas phase transport is a concern for Yucca Mountain. Although the contribution from a flow through the seals to the total release is not clearly established yet, research program on seals should address this topic.
2. Appendix B, User Need topic R301, Relevant Research Program, indicates that the work is being discontinued whereas Page A-32 lists the items being researched under this program. Current version of the User Need for this topic should be presented in Appendix B. The correct phone number for the HLGE contact (B. Jagannath) is 504- 2593.

This review was performed by Banad Jagannath of my staff; please contact him should you have any questions on this.

CC: R. Ballard
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