

November 18, 2003

NOTE TO COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS

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☐ Lorna Kipfer
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FROM: William M. Dean **/RA/**
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

SUBJECT: DOE RESPONSE TO AN OCTOBER 21, 2003 LETTER FROM THE NUCLEAR
WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD (NWTRB)

Attached is a letter dated October 27, 2003, that Margaret Chu from the Department of Energy (DOE) sent to Dr. Michael Corradini, Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) in response to the NWTRB letter dated October 21, 2003. The NWTRB letter was provided to Commissioner TAs on October 29, 2003, along with the staff's feedback on its concerns with the NWTRB's statements on performance assessment. In Ms. Chu's letter, she expresses concern about this issue, as well as several of NWTRB's statements that indicate that the thermal pulse will hasten waste package degradation. DOE states, the NWTRB letter "did not acknowledge the dependence of those results on the existence of extreme and unlikely environmental conditions." The NRC staff agrees with DOE's representation of NWTRB's incomplete interpretation of the data presented.

Attachment: As stated

cc: W. Travers, EDO (w/o attachment)	SECY (w/attachment)
C. Paperiello, DEDMRS (w/attachment)	OGC (w/attachment)
W. Kane, DEDH (w/o attachment)	OCA (w/attachment)
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