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February 15, 1995

Dr. Gustavo Cragolino, Manager
CNWRA EBS Program Element
CNWRA/San Antonio Office
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: CNWRA RECOMMENDATION FOR COMPLETING COLLOIDS REPORT

- References:
1. Letter from Prasad Nair to Charles G. Interrante dated, January 23, 1995
 2. Operations Plans for the Division of Waste Management for FY94-95 (Ops Plans), EBS Section 3.5.2.3, Subtask 2.3, (Revision 5, Change 0): Investigation of Issues Related to the EBS
 3. EBS Program Element Intermediate Milestone No. 20-5702-523-540, Colloids Review Final Report

Dear Dr. Cragolino:

In the letter of reference 1, the CNWRA has made various recommendations related to the completion of the report currently being developed on colloids. As prescribed in reference 2, there are two intermediate milestones associated with this report. One is for a report on the workshop that had been planned as part of the process to be used for completion of the second milestone, reference 3, the final report on the review on colloids.

In his letter to me (Ref. 1), Dr. Nair made the following points:

1. "...the subject of colloids requires data from site specific studies to be useful in performance assessment."
2. "...it is the CNWRA'S assessment that it is premature to conduct a workshop in the absence of adequate site specific data, which should be furnished by DOE."

In addition, he recommended that the workshop be deferred to a future date (FY97), when site-specific data may become available. A consequence of this recommendation is the deletion of the IM 20-5702-523-530. Significant amounts of time were deemed needed to complete the report, working on changes suggested by the two outside peer reviewers of the draft report. This would balance out the costs of the workshop in a manner such that, if the workshop were eliminated, the costs would remain unchanged.

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G. Cragnolino

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While I do not agree with CNWRA that there is a linkage between the need for this workshop to site-specific data, we have no objections to the elimination of the intermediate milestone on the workshop in FY95. Formal acceptance of the change in milestone deliverables will come from the Division of Contracts.

It is my judgement that you should plan another working group meeting of all of the authors, with or without the peer reviewers. However, the manner in which the report is completed is in your purview. It is my understanding that the NRC coauthors, Dr. T. Ahn and Ms. V. Colten-Bradley, will be available as needed to work on their respective parts of this report.

Once you finalize your plans, please send me a detailed schedule. The delivery date for the final report has not been firmly established and CNWRA has suggested August 31, 1995 for it (Ref. 1). Until I hear from you, this date will be left as TBD.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-6652.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Interrante
EBS Program Element Manager
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Linehan, PMDA
B. Meehan, DCPM

TICKET: CNWRA 950010

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