

November 16, 1995

Dr. Robert G. Baca, Manager
Performance Assessment Program Element
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road
P.O. Drawer 28510
San Antonio, Texas 78228-0510

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTIMATING INFILTRATION AND DEEP PERCOLATION AT THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE: INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE; (IM) 5702-723-520

Dear Dr. Baca:

In a letter dated October 30, 1995, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) transmitted a report entitled "Progress Towards Estimating Infiltration and Deep Percolation at the Yucca Mountain Site." Based on our programmatic review, conducted by Rex G. Wescott, it was determined that this deliverable was transmitted on time, and is adequate and consistent with the technical direction previously provided to the CNWRA. Therefore, the transmitted document acceptably meets the requirements of Intermediate Milestone (IM) 5702-723-520.

In addition to providing input to Phase 3 of the staff's on-going Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA) efforts, it should be noted that we expect that the information contained in this report will also provide a basis for work to be performed under the Key Technical Issue concerning Flow in the Unsaturated and Saturated Zones under Isothermal Conditions. Thus, the work performed under this IM can significantly assist in determining whether alternative conceptual models of infiltration at Yucca Mountain are justified at this time and in defining repository infiltration distributions for different average infiltration fluxes. We expect that such evaluations will be included in the Center's 1996 Annual IPA Status Report.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 301/415-6677.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael P. Lee, Manager
Performance Assessment Program Element
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: S. L. Fortuna, PMDA
B. D. Meehan, CAB

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