

OCT 11 1988

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Division of Reactor Accident Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Martin G. Malsch, Deputy General Counsel for  
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Robert A. Kornasiewicz, Senior Project Manager  
Waste Management Branch  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Robert Bernero, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: CNWRA REPORT ON WASTE CONFIDENCE

Enclosed for your review is "Summary Report-The State of Knowledge of Waste Confidence," prepared by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). You may find this document useful, along with the other material on Waste Confidence recently provided to you, in preparing for the initial meeting of the Review Group to review the Commission's 1984 Waste Confidence Proceeding's findings currently scheduled for October 12.

The CNWRA is NRC's Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) which provides research and technical assistance to NRC in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) Program Area. The CNWRA's headquarters is in San Antonio, Texas at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), its parent company. A Washington office is in Arlington, VA. CNWRA has been in operation for approximately one year. It was established to provide NRC with long term

\*See previous concurrence

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support free from conflict of interest in the NWA program where NRC will be asked to license a repository constructed by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the permanent disposal of high-level nuclear waste.

This report was prepared by the CNWRA's Washington Office which generally has the CNWRA lead for providing assistance to NRC on regulatory and programmatic issues. At the time that the contract was awarded in October of 1987, the NRC CNWRA program management directed the CNWRA to deliver this report to serve the dual purposes of assisting the CNWRA in developing its expertise while providing a product that could be useful to the NMSS staff in preparing to support the Commission's review of its Waste Confidence findings. The principal CNWRA analyst who compiled the report is Dr. N. K. "Pat" Brown, an attorney and environmental scientist who is one of the four professional staff members at the CNWRA Washington Office. Mark Delligatti of the Division of High-Level Waste Management is the responsible NRC Program Element Manager. If you have any questions about the Center you may direct them to Mr. Delligatti at extension 20430, or to Joseph Bunting, the NRC CNWRA Program Manager at extension 23394. If you have questions about the report, you may direct them to Julia Corrado at extension 20434.

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Robert Bernero, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: JBunting  
MDelligatti  
JCorrado

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