



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SEP 28 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: Warren Minners, Director
Division of Safety Issue Resolution
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: B. J. Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FROM LEE ABRAMSON (RES) FOR THE STAFF EFFORT TO
REDUCE THE REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY IN THE TERM "SUBSTANTIALLY
COMPLETE CONTAINMENT"

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the continued support of Lee Abramson for the staff's effort to reduce the regulatory uncertainty in the Part 60 requirement for "substantially complete containment" of radionuclides within the waste packages following closure of the repository. Members of my staff, along with staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), are currently working on the technical basis needed to support the development of guidance which would clarify the containment requirement. Lee recently participated in a meeting at the CNWRA (San Antonio) to discuss the details of the technical basis development work and provided insight and suggestions on ways to formulate the results of our waste package modeling activities that would best support the development of guidance.

Lee is very knowledgeable and familiar with this activity, having supported earlier work in this area in 1990 and 1991, and his expertise is unique. As you may be aware, Lee was a co-author of NUREG/CR-5639, Uncertainty Evaluation Methods for Waste Package Performance Assessment, January 1991, and his prior support was invaluable.

Lee's support is specifically requested to review a CNWRA report, "Example Analysis of a Reference Container," due October 1993. A subsequent CNWRA report on possible concepts for regulatory guidance, due in May 1994, would also benefit from Lee's review. Lastly, it would be desirable for Lee to assist in the formulation of the concepts recommended for regulatory guidance. Based on prior experience, we estimate that the resource demands on Lee's time would not exceed 3 staff weeks.

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W. Minners

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact
Ronald Ballard, Chief, Geology and Engineering Branch, on 504-3462.

B. J. Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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