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April 14, 2003
Contract No. NRC-02-02-012
Account No. 20.06002.01.111

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. James Firth
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Division of Waste Management
Performance Assessment and High-Level Waste Integration Branch
Mail Stop 7C-18
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Transmittal of CNWRA Review of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Response
Letter for Agreement Total System Performance Assessment and Integration
(TSPAI).4.07 (IM 06002.01.111.310)

Dear Mr. Firth:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the results of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) review of a December 23, 2002 response letter from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regarding Agreement TSPAI.4.07. To facilitate preparation of an NRC response to the DOE letter, the enclosed CNWRA review results are provided in the form of a draft NRC letter, without an enclosure per your request.

Agreement TSPAI.4.07 relates to software qualification procedures. These software procedures address important issues such as verification and validation of software used in quality affecting activities. The agreement also requests that DOE make available for NRC review documentation of compliance with the revised procedures (e.g., records packages). While the DOE response letter indicates the requested records packages will be available for NRC review in March of 2003, a recent check found only partially completed records packages. The DOE response letter also introduces a new DOE commitment to develop a separate procedure for verification and validation of legacy software. The topic of the new procedure is highly relevant to Agreement TSPAI.4.07, and CNWRA recommends NRC include the procedure in the review of the Agreement.



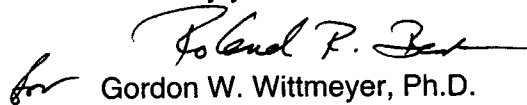
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Because all the information requested in the Agreement is not available for NRC review at this time, the CNWRA review recommends the NRC consider the agreement status to be partly received and wait for the requested information to be made available for further NRC review. CNWRA staff are also aware that NRC will be observing a DOE quality assurance audit on the DOE software procedures in May of 2003 and this audit is directly relevant to issues raised in agreement TSPA1.4.07. Cognizant CNWRA technical staff will be made available to help support NRC observation of the audit, if requested.

If you have any questions about the content and format of the enclosed CNWRA review results, please direct them to Patrick LaPlante at (301) 881-0289 or me at (210) 522-5082.

Sincerely yours,


for Gordon W. Wittmeyer, Ph.D.
Manager, Performance Assessment

GW/rm

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