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- 1 -

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Mr. Carl Newton
Office of Waste Isolation
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Newton:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Sandia report, "Geochemical Parameters Used in the Bedded Salt Reference Repository Risk Assessment Methodology," NUREG/CR-1996, which we would like DOE to review. As you know, the extent to which NRC is likely to give credit for geochemical retardation in its assessment of repository performance is a question that has often been raised by DOE. This report describes the evaluation and rationale for selecting the ranges of geochemical parameters used in past NRC studies of the performance of repositories in bedded salt. The report is an historical document and should be viewed from this perspective, since it does not represent the state-of-the-art in modelling geochemical retardation. Nevertheless, we would like DOE to compare the choice of geochemical parameters in this document with the geochemical parameters currently used in the DOE modeling program. Your comparison of the two approaches to modeling radionuclide geochemistry will facilitate our efforts to upgrade our performance assessment capabilities.

As suggested by W. Ballard in his memorandum to M. Bell dated April 1, 1982, your assistance is requested in identifying key personnel in the

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MAY 10 1982

DOE program to review this report and a reasonable schedule for completion of the review.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Lawrence W. Rossbach
High-Level Waste Licensing
Management Branch
Division of Waste Management

Enclosure: As stated

cc: w/encl.
W. Ballard, DOE
R. Stein, w/o encl.

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