

March 3, 2004

H. Lawrence McKague
Element Manager
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road
P.O. Drawer 28510
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF IM 06002.01.051.444 - REVIEW OF DOE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR IGNEOUS ACTIVITY KEY TECHNICAL ISSUE AGREEMENT 1.02. (CNWRA TICKET 2004 0060)

Dear Mr. McKague:

We have performed a review of the above referenced Intermediate Milestone and find it both programmatically and technically acceptable. The report provides a very detailed review and commentary on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) response to the concerns raised in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) letter (Schlueter to Ziegler, 2002), and concludes that the present DOE response still leaves the issue as "Needs Additional Information." However, the review also concludes that the present DOE field and laboratory program should provide information to reduce the uncertainty in, as scheduled, the 2006 time frame. The NRC staff agrees with the CNWRA's comments and assessment.

I would like to commend the CWNRA staff for the completeness of their review. If there are any questions please contact me at (301)-415-8063 or by e-mail at jst@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John S. Trapp, Program Element Manager
Igneous Activity Key Technical Issue
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: B. Meehan, ADM/DCPM/CMC1
M. Leach, NMSS/PMDA

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