

March 5, 2004

Dr. Asadul H. Chowdhury, Manager
Mining, Geotechnical, and Facility Engineering
Center For Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road
P.O. Drawer 28510
San Antonio, TX 78228-5166

SUBJECT: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL-MECHANICAL EFFECTS KEY
TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO. 20.0600.01.102.465:
REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO AGREEMENT PRE.07.02

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

We have reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Intermediate Milestone Deliverable (IM) No. 20.0600.01.102.465, "Review of Response to Agreement PRE.07.02 for a Potential Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Project No. WM-011." The report summarizes the CNWRA review of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, report, "Response to Key Technical Issue Agreement Preclosure Safety 7.02." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff reviewed the CNWRA deliverable and sought clarifications with the authors during a telephone conference on March 4, 2004. NRC team is working with the CNWRA team to finalize the report and prepare a response to the U.S. Department of Energy. With the comments and suggestions for modifications discussed during the telephone conference, the subject Intermediate Milestone report is considered acceptable to fulfill the Center's contractual obligations. If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-6695 or via e-mail msn1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mysore Nataraja,
Program Element Manager
High Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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RKJohnson DDancer MNataraja

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