

April 1, 2004

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

SUBJECT: Review and Approval of IM 06002.01.051.465 - First-Order Conceptual Model for Fluvial Remobilization of Tephra along Fortymile Wash, Yucca Mountain, Nevada

Dear Mr. McKague:

We have performed a review of the above reference Intermediate Milestone transmitted by your March 17, 2004, letter and find it both programmatically and technically acceptable. The report is basically a progress report describing a simplified first-order mass-balance approach to analyzing remobilization or redistribution of tephra in the Fortymile Wash drainage system. As such, the report presents a logical approach to addressing the concerns and appears to offer much promise. Of interest is the fact that the results would indicate that the dilution factors being proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy for contaminated ash during redistribution are too high. Completion of the additional task listed in the report and refinement of the model should be a priority task.

If there are any questions please contact me at (301) 415-8063 or by e-mail at [jst@nrc.gov](mailto:jst@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

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

cc: B. Meehan, ADM/DCPM/CMC1  
C.W. Reamer, HLWRS

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