



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

ACNWR-0209

July 6, 2004

Mr. Luis Reyes  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: CNWRA PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM ON SPENT NUCLEAR  
FUEL DISSOLUTION

Dear Mr. Reyes:

In its March 4, 2003, letter to the Chairman, the ACNW asked that the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) justify the use of unirradiated uranium dioxide as a surrogate in studies of spent nuclear fuel dissolution. The EDO's response of April 16, 2004, to the ACNW indicated that such use is adequately justified. The ACNW requires additional information to be satisfied that the use of unirradiated uranium dioxide is justified.

We are continuing to work with the NRC staff to understand the issue and rationale. The CNWRA proposal and experimental protocol may provide adequate justification and the ACNW has requested access to the relevant technical portions of the CNWRA proposal.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

B. John Garrick  
Chairman

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