

September 29, 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 78238-5166

Subject: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL-MECHANICAL EFFECTS KEY  
TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO. 20-06002.01.102.430:  
REVIEW OF PRECLOSURE ANALYSIS PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

We have received and reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) document entitled, "Identification of Prelicensing Activities to Support the Preclosure Evaluation of a Potential Yucca Mountain License Application." We note that the title was revised to better reflect the contents of the report and we find it acceptable. The subject report tabulates technical topics and associated staff activities in five functional areas of the geologic repository operations area consistent with the current understanding of the authors of the report. Staff from the preclosure team at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have provided input during the preparation of this report. Additional insights gained during the recent technical exchange between NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held on September 14-15, 2004, may also be used to update the contents of the report. Periodic discussions will be held between the CNWRA and NRC staff to keep this planning document current and useful. We accept the subject Intermediate Milestone report with the provision that the report is an internal document and will be subject to future revisions to reflect staff's current knowledge of the DOE program. No response is expected to this letter, however, 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](mailto:msn1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Mysore Nataraja, Program Element Manager  
Engineering Section  
Technical Review Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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