

November 24, 2004

Dr. English C. Pearcy, Manager
Geochemistry Element Manager
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road
Building 189
San Antonio, TX 78228-5166

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CNWRA INPUT TO COLLOID-RELATED AGREEMENTS FOR KEY TECHNICAL ISSUES "EVOLUTION OF THE NEAR-FIELD ENVIRONMENT" (ENFE 3.05 AND 4.05), "RADIONUCLIDE TRANSPORT (RT 1.03 AND 3.07) AND GENERAL (GEN 1.01, COMMENTS 43 AND 46) DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2004

Dear Dr. Pearcy:

The staff has reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses' (CNWRA) review of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) technical information and analyses submitted in response to Key Technical Issue Agreements ENFE 3.05, ENFE 4.05, RT 1.03, RT 3.07, GEN 1.01 Comment 43, and GEN 1.01 Comment 46, submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on November 4, 2004. Based on the NRC review, this CNWRA product is considered acceptable.

The staff appreciates the CNWRA's efforts to compose a cover letter, along with a report describing the agreements, the technical information provided in the DOE agreement responses, NRC evaluation and comment, including relevance to repository performance, and results of the NRC review. This contribution is extremely helpful to the NRC to meet its commitments to evaluate the DOE agreement responses.

If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact me at (301) 415-6597.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Bradbury, Program Element Manager
Repository Site Section
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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