

March 30, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Bret W. Leslie, Senior Project Manager
Performance Assessment Section
Technical Review Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, NMSS

FROM: Lawrence E. Kokajko, Deputy Director /RA/
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

I have determined, based on my review of your professional background, work experience, and education, that you are qualified to perform technical and regulatory reviews on high-level waste (HLW) disposal work at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and to perform licensing activities for the HLW repository.

My review of your professional background indicates that you have approximately fifteen years of experience in the performance assessment field and related activities. This experience includes:

1. Almost nine years working at NRC in pre-licensing work related to U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) high-level radioactive waste repository program, including the following:
 - Performing high-level waste pre-licensing reviews in the post closure safety assessment and quality assurance program areas.
 - Supporting the high-level waste project including: initiating the risk insights initiative; reviewing DOE's total system performance assessment model created with the GoldSim software package, and reviewing DOE quality assurance procedures and practices.

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- Technical lead for the Evolution of the Near-Field Geochemical Environment (ENFE) Key Technical Issue (KTI) team's participation in the sufficiency review, which contributed to the development of the NRC sufficiency comments that accompanied DOE's recommendation of the Yucca Mountain site.
 - Four years as a geochemist in the Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) where your major accomplishments included development of the Issue Resolution Status Report (Versions 1- 3) for the ENFE KTI.
2. One year of experience as a geologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where you served as the technical expert on geologic and performance assessment issues for the management and disposal of high-level radioactive waste at the potential Yucca Mountain repository.
 3. One year of experience as a senior scientist at the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research where you conducted technical analyses on radioactive waste management issues, including high-level waste, and provided invited comments to the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Technical Bases for the Yucca Mountain Standard.
 4. Two years as a research scientist at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses where you conducted pre-licensing technical and regulatory analyses for the NRC on geochemical and radionuclide transport aspects of the Yucca Mountain program.
 5. Over two years as a research assistant at the University of Southern California where you were conducting field and laboratory analyses of radionuclide transport of uranium and thorium isotopes, and their radioactive daughters, under conditions analogous to the near-field environments expected for nuclear waste repositories.

Your formal education includes a Doctoral Degree and a Master of Science Degree from University of Southern California in Geology. You have continued your training throughout your career by completing several of the high-level waste training courses, including: Risk Assessment in NMSS, P400; Quantitative Risk Assessment, P403; and Yucca Mountain Project Team's Risk Performance Lectures or their equivalent training. You have demonstrated knowledge and application of NRC requirements, policies, Management Directives, guidance and review procedures, and office and division procedures in your many technical and management reviews. Your formal education, together with your course work and your extensive work experience at NRC, provide me with substantial evidence of your capability to perform technical reviews on high-level waste disposal work at NRC.

Thus, through an evaluation of your employment history and my observations of your work, I have concluded that you understand and have satisfied the training and qualification requirements described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 1246 (IMC 1246), "Formal Qualification Programs in the Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Program Area," April 14, 2003, and that you have the necessary skills and experience to perform assigned tasks related to HLWRS technical reviews and licensing activities to which you have been assigned. Therefore, you are hereby certified as qualified to perform technical and licensing reviews on HLW disposal.

Note that IMC 1246 requires post-qualification and periodic refresher training. Section XV, Appendix A, IMC 1246 states that refresher training will be conducted every three years following certification and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

B. Leslie

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