

June 7, 2005

Mr. James Winterle, Manager
Performance Assessment
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF TRANSMITTAL OF REVISED RISK ANALYSIS FOR RISK
INSIGHTS PROGRESS REPORT [METHODOLOGY AND OVERALL
SYSTEM PERFORMANCE DELIVERABLE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE
20.06002.01.351.510]

Dear Mr. Winterle:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of the revised subject milestone by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). The original milestone report was received on December 2, 2004, and I received the transmittal letter with the revised report on May 23, 2005. This revised milestone report "Risk Analysis for Risk Insights Progress Report" can be released to the public at this time.

Consistent with verbal guidance, and comments within the NRC acceptance letter dated December 17, 2004, for the original milestone, the milestone has been revised by CNWRA. The revised CNWRA milestone is programmatically and technically acceptable. While it was agreed that the report need not be revised to address general comments made in NRC's acceptance letter, the concern of properly characterizing the analyses in an appropriate risk-informed framework remains. The CNWRA should make every effort to ensure that when these analyses are discussed in subsequent presentations and papers, the CNWRA explicitly identify the conditional assumptions (e.g. an older design for the drip shield, or absence of a barrier or process) that affect the results. The CNWRA's efforts to revise the milestone to address the numerous specific comments made by the NRC on the original milestone are to be commended.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of General Applicability," a copy of this letter will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). The ADAMS package accession number is ML051580215. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

J. Winterle

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If you have questions regarding this matter I can be contacted at (301) 415-6652 or by e-mail at BWL@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bret Leslie, MOSP Program Element Manager
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

Risk Analysis for Risk Insights Progress Report and
Transmittal of the Revised Risk Analysis for Risk Insights Progress Report in Response
to the NRC Comments in the NRC Comments in the Acceptive Letter Dated December
17, 2004

cc: A. Campbell, HLWRS
D. Demarco, HLWRS
B. Meehan, ADM
S. Mohanty, CNWRA

J. Winterle

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S. Mohanty, CNWRA

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