August 24, 2005

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 78228-5166

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE: ASSESSMENT OF

STRUCTURAL ROBUSTNESS AGAINST AIRCRAFT IMPACT AT THE POTENTIAL REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN – PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Intermediate Milestone Deliverable (IM) No. 20.06002.01.332.550, "Assessment of Structural Robustness Against Aircraft Impact at the Potential Repository at Yucca Mountain" The report summarizes progress made in developing staff capabilities to review and verify independently assessments that the Department of Energy may perform to demonstrate the robustness of certain structures of the proposed surface facilities at the potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

The subject Intermediate Milestone report is considered acceptable to fulfill the Center's contractual obligations. However, NRC staff requests that CNWRA revise the report to address the enclosed comments. In addition, the NRC will communicate several other observations regarding the report and future work in the subject area by teleconference. If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-5170 or via e-mail tik1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Kobetz,
Program Element Manager
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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