

October 6, 2005

Dr. Gordon Wittmeyer, Assistant Director
Earth Sciences
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CONCENTRATION OF RADIONUCLIDES IN GROUNDWATER
INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE 06002.01.282.531, "DEVELOPMENT AND
APPLICATION OF A MODEL TO SIMULATE SATURATED ZONE
TRANSPORT FROM THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED REPOSITORY
FOOTPRINT AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN"

Dear Dr. Wittmeyer:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of the subject milestone by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). The milestone report was received on September 20, 2005, on the date required. The milestone report and the transmittal letter, which both indicate that they are predecisional, will not be made publically available.

The footer on the transmittal letter indicates that "The document transmitted herewith contains sensitive unclassified information. When separated from enclosures, this document is decontrolled." Despite this statement, I have reviewed the incoming document and have determined that the document does not contain sensitive information. The Center should resubmit the document with the predecisional header and footer removed, and replaced by Final as the header and footer. This letter, the resubmitted final milestone report, and the new transmittal letter will all be added to a single package in NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The transmittal letter for the resubmitted report should also not have any header or footer. By taking this action of grouping the resubmitted final CNWRA milestone report, the new CNWRA transmittal letter, and the NRC's review of the deliverable into a single ADAMS package, an appropriate context for the public to understand the CNWRA's letter and milestone will have been provided in an associative manner.

The report is well written in clear and plain English, organized in a logical fashion, references are used appropriately, information presented in sufficient detail to allow an adequate understanding of the author's analyses, and the conclusions appear to be supported by the analyses presented. While this deliverable in the Concentration of Radionuclides in Groundwater (DOSE1) program element is acceptable, the CNWRA should consider the comments in the attachment to this letter, and address them to extent practicable, as it continues work in this program element, and to the extent applicable, in other program elements.

G. Wittmeyer

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It should be noted that Jim Rubenstone will be the program element manager in fiscal year 2006 for the DOSE1 program element, and that Keith Compton will be the project officer for the DOSE1 element.

If you have questions, please contact Bret Leslie, at (301) 415-6652 or by e-mail at BWL@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bret Leslie, DOSE1 Program Element Manager
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Attachment : Comments Derived from Review of CNWRA Milestone 06002.01.282.531

cc: A. Campbell, HLWRS
J. Rubenstone, HLWRS
D. Demarco, HLWRS
B. Meehan, ADM
D. Farrell, CWNRA
G. Wittmeyer, CNWRA

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-2-

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Bret Leslie, DOSE1 Program Element Manager
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D. Farrell, CWNRA
G. Wittmeyer, CNWRA

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