

HLWYM HEmails

From: Paul Bertetti
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2005 2:45 PM
To: Andy Campbell; Bret Leslie; John Bradbury
Cc: John Randall; English Pearcy
Subject: RE: Fwd: Transmittal of USGS letter report on field validation of predicted Kd values

Andy,

I can't really answer any of these questions directly. As you mention, the report does not include discussion of Nye County samples.

I do know that Jim Davis and his colleagues at the U.S.G.S. continue to work on studying sorption processes at the Naturita site. This work has been well received by the scientific community and may offer interesting insights for development of sorption parameters in natural systems. In fact, after some discussions with Jim last week, we (CNWRA) have provided a sample of clinoptilolite (zeolite) (the same type as used in our previous ion exchange and sorption experiments) to Jim for testing in the field at Naturita. I think this material will be included as one of the "other" materials tested using the techniques Jim has developed. The CNWRA will have no involvement or participation in that testing.

Jim also independently participated in the sampling of sediments from EWDP well 19PB (the first sonic core well) in December 2003. Several groups participated in this activity as is common for most EWDP activities. At the time, Jim mentioned that his intent was to examine the sorption behavior of neptunium on the samples. To date, I have not seen any results from that work, if indeed any has been done. I am uncertain of his funding source (if any).

With respect to DOE's statements regarding the unimportance of the SZ, I would simply state that DOE currently uses very nearly the same parameter ranges and distributions for sorption of radionuclides, including Np, in the saturated alluvium as are used by the NRC. And as you state, using these similar numbers, the NRC has concluded in their Risk Analysis for Risk Insights report that retardation in the saturated alluvium is of high-importance to waste isolation.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Paul

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-----Original Message-----

From: Andy Campbell [mailto:ACC@nrc.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 07, 2005 8:57 AM
To: pbertetti@cnwra.swri.edu; Bret Leslie
Cc: John Randall
Subject: Re: Fwd: Transmittal of USGS letter report on field validation of predicted Kd values

Bret, Paul, John,

The letter report is only on the Naturita site as far as I can tell. Is RES having a USGS or another contractor analyze sorption parameters on Nye county soils and/or material from Nye Co. wells? If so there may be a potential impact on our review activities vis-a-vis DOE's analyses of sorption in the SZ and their statements that it is relatively unimportant to risk. In our Risk-Insights Baseline we state that radionuclide retardation in the alluvium of the SZ to be of high significance to waste isolation. If Nye county is or will be part of this project we need to get these reports to look at and provide feedback to RES.

John,

Please include us in early review of these materials. As per EDO request, Margaret and Jack want NMSS to be apprized of activities that may have implications for Yucca Mountain Project.

Thanks,

Andy

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>>> Bret Leslie 10/07/05 7:26 AM >>>

Paul,

Is this the project where USGS, working for RES, took samples from the Nye county early warning system wells for sorption analysis? Glad you mentioned it the other night at dinner. Been so hectic haven't had the opportunity to let Andy know. You might want to call Andy (301-415-6897) and get him up to speed on what you know concerning RES and the Nye county wells. thanks, bret

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From: Paul Bertetti

Created By: pbertetti@cnwra.swri.edu

Recipients:

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