



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 12, 2019

Dr. Wesley Patrick, Director
Center for Nuclear Waste
Regulatory Analyses
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road, Bldg. 189
San Antonio, TX 78228-0510

SUBJECT: AWARD FEE DETERMINATION REPORT FY 2019 - CONTRACT NO.
NRC-HQ-12-C-02-0089

Dear Dr. Patrick:

The Center Review Group (CRG) has concluded its assessment of the performance of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA or Center) for all fee-based and nuclear waste funded Charter efforts under the subject contract for the 37th performance evaluation period (September 29, 2018, through March 31, 2019). For this award period, the Center is eligible to receive an award fee maximum of \$14,314.00. The CRG rated the Center's overall performance at 99 percent. I have approved this rating recommendation and have determined that the Center is entitled to an award fee of \$14,171.00.

Overall, the Center's performance was excellent during the evaluation period for the Charter efforts, with almost all Center deliverables exceeding the quality, quantity, and timeliness standards in the relevant areas. The CRG based this determination on: (1) reports and analyses received, including from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Contracting Officer Representative (COR) reports and the Center's self-assessment report; (2) discussions with the NRC's CORs, respective branch chiefs, and Center management; and, (3) CRG deliberations.

The NRC continues to recognize the Center's significant role in providing technical assistance to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards for the fee-based efforts and the nuclear waste funded effort associated with the following:

- Support for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement deliverables: Draft and final Requests for Additional Information, preliminary draft Scoping Summary Report (SSR) and a final site trip report, Revised annotated outline for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and revised statement of the Proposed Action and Alternative for Analysis in the EIS.
- CNWRA staff developed one technical report, providing an overview of the capabilities of the computer model TREATMECH. TREATMECH is a computer code developed by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to simulate coupled processes of thermal and hydrological transport in the subsurface, geomechanics, and geochemistry. The report was delivered on time.

- CNWRA submitted few deliverables for NRC Task Order No.: NRC-HQ-50-17-T-0002, but continued working toward completing activities and evaluations for future deliverables. One example is sorting and evaluating thousands of scoping comments for an SSR. The CNWRA and the NRC COR agreed to move the SSR deliverable to the second half of the fiscal year. In addition, the CNWRA staff provided technical support of contention responses and were on standby for technical consultation during oral arguments.

The NRC appreciates the responsiveness of the Center's management and staff over the evaluation period. My staff will continue to work closely with you to manage programmatic changes, schedules, and priorities. I congratulate you and the Center staff on your excellent performance during this period.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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