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September 30, 1999
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. James Firth
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Division of Waste Management
Performance Assessment and HLW Integration Branch
Mail Stop 7C-18
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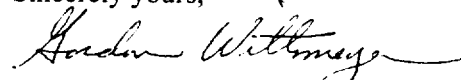
Subject: Transmittal of Strategic Plan for TPA Development Through FY2002

Dear Mr. Firth:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit Strategic Plan for TPA Development Through FY2002—IM-1402-761-930 “A Strategic Plan for Development and Documentation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Total-System Performance Assessment Method.” This letter report lays out a strategic plan for future development of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) overall TPA methodology, which includes the TPA code, sensitivity and uncertainty analysis methods, and the pre- and post-processors developed to facilitate the use of these complex computational tools. The strategic plan lays out a schedule for completing a TPA Version 4.0 for the U.S. Department of Energy site recommendation review in 2000 and a TPA Version 5.0 for the license application review. The strategic plan emphasizes developing the supporting documentation for the TPA tools, since Version 3.2 is already a robust, well-tested code. This strategic plan will also aid developing the total-system performance assessment integration key technical issue budget for fiscal years 2001 through 2003. The Office of General Counsel (OGC) is currently evaluating the required level of documentation for NRC computer codes. Since OGC may conclude that the findings made with the TPA code cannot be questioned by interveners during the adjudicatory process, complete documentation of the TPA code may not be needed. Accordingly, the strategic plan identifies a subset of the supporting documents that would be needed to facilitate the use of the TPA code and to meet the requirements of Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses quality assurance procedures.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (210) 522-5082, or the senior author of the strategic plan, Dr. Sitakanta Mohanty at (210) 522-5185.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon W. Wittmeyer, Ph.D.
Manager, Performance Assessment

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Enclosure

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