

October 28, 1999

Asadul H. Chowdhury,
Manager, Mining, Geotechnical, and Facility Engineering
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road P.O. Drawer 28510
San Antonio Texas 78228-0510

Subject: REPOSITORY DESIGN AND THERMAL MECHANICAL EFFECTS KEY
TECHNICAL ISSUE INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE NO. 20-1402-671-990: PRE-
CLOSURE STANDARD REVIEW PLAN REVISION 0 PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Dr. Chowdhury,

We have received the subject Intermediate Milestone Report submitted by the Center on September 15, 1999. The Pre-closure Standard Review Plan Team has reviewed this report and found it acceptable as a progress report. The subject report is considered to fulfill the Center's obligation for this intermediate milestone under the Repository Design Thermal-Mechanical Effects Key Technical Issue Program Element for the Fiscal Year 1999.

As you know, a number of observations have been made by the reviewers and our staff review comments are being discussed with the Center staff during our frequent Standard Review Plan Team meetings held via teleconferencing. It is our understanding that further modifications to the draft progress report will continue until a final version of Revision 0 of the review plan will be produced before the end of this calendar year. We will continue to provide inputs during our Team meetings until the development of Revision 0 of the Pre-closure Standard Review Plan continues. The subject document is considered pre-decisional and therefore will not be made publicly available.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-6695 or via e-mail (msn1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

[Original Signed By]

Mysore Nataraja, Ph.D., PE
Program Element Manager
High-Level Waste and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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cc: J. Linehan
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