

February 26, 2001

Mr. Bruce Mabrito
Director of Quality Assurance
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Bldg. 189/A121
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: INPUT FOR OBSERVATION AUDIT REPORT OAR-01-03, UNSATURATED
ZONE FLOW AND TRANSPORT PROCESS MODEL REPORT - MILESTONE
IM20.1402.331.112

Dear Mr. Mabrito:

We have reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses' (CNWRA's) February 16, 2001, letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which transmitted pre-decisional input to the NRC input for Observation Audit Report No. QAR-01-03 for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) audit of the Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport Process Model Report (PMR) at its Las Vegas, Nevada, facilities on August 21-25, 2000. Based on our review of this input, we consider that the CNWRA's February 16, 2001, submittal fulfills the Intermediate Milestone Number 20.1402.331.112 for support during the NRC's observation activities for the DOE Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport PMR audit.

We note that once the audit observation report is signed by the team members, there may be some non-technical editing directed by NRC management during their review of the report. These edits are not normally presented to the team members for review. However, if there are significant changes or changes of a technical nature, we will discuss these changes with you.

We appreciate all of the support provided by the CNWRA's quality assurance and technical staff during this audit observation.

If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please contact me at (301) 415-5000.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Larry Campbell
Senior Quality Assurance Engineer
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management

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