

October 13, 2005

Mr. James Winterle, Manager
Performance Assessment
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SUMMARY OF BIOSPHERE CHARACTERISTICS ACTIVITIES
ACCOMPLISHED IN FISCAL YEAR 2005 [BIOSPHERE CHARACTERISTICS
INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE 06002.01.372.520]

Dear Mr. Winterle:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of the subject milestone by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). The milestone report was received on September 30, 2005, on the date required in the CNWRA's operations plan for fiscal year 2005. The milestone which consists only of a letter, and which indicates that it is predecisional, will not be made publically available in its current form.

The footer on the transmittal letter indicates that "The document transmitted herewith contains sensitive unclassified information. When separated from enclosures, this document is decontrolled." Despite this statement, and despite that there are no enclosures, I have reviewed the incoming document and have determined that the document does not contain sensitive information. The Center should resubmit the document with the predecisional header and footer removed as this letter, and the revised milestone transmittal letter will all be added to a single package in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). By taking this action of grouping the CNWRA transmittal letter and the NRC's review of the deliverable into a single ADAMS package, an appropriate context for the public to understand the CNWRA's letter will have been provided in an associative manner.

In general, the milestone is well written in clear and plain English, and the information was presented in sufficient detail to allow an adequate understanding of the extent of CNWRA support provided for the Biosphere Characteristics (DOSE3) program element during fiscal year 2005. This deliverable in the DOSE3 program element is acceptable.

It should be noted that Jim Rubenstone will be the program element manager in fiscal year 2006 for the DOSE3 program element, and that Keith Compton will be the project officer for the DOSE3 element.

J. Winterle

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If you have questions, please contact Bret Leslie, at (301) 415-6652 or by e-mail at BWL@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bret Leslie, DOSE3 Program Element Manager
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: A. Campbell, HLWRS
J. Rubenstone, HLWRS
D. Demarco, HLWRS
B. Meehan, ADM
P. LaPlante, CWNRA
S. Mohanty, CNWRA

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