



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Office of Repository Development
1551 Hillshire Drive
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QA: N/A
Project No. WM-00011

MAY 04 2006

OVERNIGHT MAIL

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Division of High-Level Waste
Repository Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
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REQUEST FOR PETROGRAPHIC THIN SECTION SAMPLES

Our team of scientists from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Southern California, is currently studying fracture flow, seepage, and radionuclide transport at the Nopal I natural analogue site in Chihuahua, Mexico. Previous studies conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), including descriptions of the distribution and nature of uranium mineralization at Nopal I, have been helpful in our studies to date. We would like to build upon this earlier work by studying some of the samples that have been previously collected and analyzed by CNWRA. In particular, we would like to obtain the following five petrographic thin sections, which contain uranium-bearing mineral phases, for our ion probe studies:

NOPI-ECP-32
NOPI-ECP-1-TS1
NOPI-ECP-1-TS5
NOPI-ECP-30-TS3
NOPI-271-TS9

Any descriptive information relating to these samples would also be greatly appreciated.

There are no new regulatory commitments in the body of this letter. Please direct any questions concerning this letter to April V. Gil at (702) 794-5578 or e-mail april_gil@ymp.gov, or contact Eric T. Smistad at (702) 794-5073 or e-mail eric_smistad@ymp.gov.



Mark H. Williams, Director
Office of License Application and Strategy

OLA&S:AVG-0892



Nm5507

MAY 04 2006

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