

September 24, 1996

Dr. Asadul Chowdhury, Manager
CNWRA RDCO Program Element
CNWRA/San Antonio Office
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: RDTM KTI INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE 20-5708-671-640: SENSITIVITY STUDY
OF DRIFT STABILITY ON REPOSITORY PRECLOSURE PERFORMANCE;
CNWRA 96-009

Reference: Letter of September 5, 1996, from A. Chowdhury of Center to
B. Jagannath of NRC transmitting the IM deliverable

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

The subject report on "A parametric Study of Drift Stability in Jointed Rock Mass - Phase I: Discrete Element Thermal-Mechanical Analysis of Unbackfilled Drifts," submitted as a deliverable for Intermediate Milestone 20-5708-671-640, has been reviewed. The title of the report is different from the title mentioned as IM deliverable in the CNWRA Operations Plan. This change is accepted as it better reflects the contents of the report. The scope of work presented in the report and the submittal date are in accordance with the provisions in the CNWRA FY96 Operations Plan. Although the programmatic review has been completed, the technical review is in progress. Because of other high priority work, the technical review is behind schedule, and the technical comments will be transmitted to CNWRA by the end of October 1996. Based on the programmatic review, the report is accepted as a deliverable for IM 20-5708-671-640. The decision on placing this report in the PDR will be made after the technical review is completed. The action taken by this letter is within the scope of the current contract.

Please contact me at (301) 415-6653, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/S/

Dr. Banad N. Jagannath, Manager
NRC RDTM KTI Program Element
Engineering and Geosciences Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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