



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

July 6, 2004

Mr. Luis Reyes
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: CNWRA PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM ON SPENT NUCLEAR
FUEL DISSOLUTION

Dear Mr. Reyes:

In its March 4, 2003, letter to the Chairman, the ACNW asked that the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) justify the use of unirradiated uranium dioxide as a surrogate in studies of spent nuclear fuel dissolution. The EDO's response of April 16, 2004, to the ACNW indicated that such use is adequately justified. The ACNW requires additional information to be satisfied that the use of unirradiated uranium dioxide is justified.

We are continuing to work with the NRC staff to understand the issue and rationale. The CNWRA proposal and experimental protocol may provide adequate justification and the ACNW has requested access to the relevant technical portions of the CNWRA proposal.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. John Garrick
Chairman