



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300  
Arlington, VA 22201

February 25, 2004

Mr. Harry W. Swainston  
Attorney At Law  
4040 Hobart Road  
Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Mr. Swainston:

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board has carefully considered your letter of October 27, 2003, and the accompanying review by Drs. Yuri V. Dublyansky and Sergey Z. Smirnov. The review by Drs. Dublyansky and Smirnov was of a report by N. S. F. Wilson, J. S. Cline, and Y. V. Amelin entitled *Thermochronological Evolution of Calcite Formation at the Potential Yucca Mountain Repository Site, Nevada*. Based upon its examination of the information you sent us, the Board sees nothing that would alter the Board's previous conclusion that the evidence presented does not make a credible case for the hypothesis of ongoing, intermittent hydrothermal activity at Yucca Mountain.

We do, however, recognize that differences of opinion on the issue of hydrothermal activity may still exist. We note that a published version of the report by Wilson et al appeared in *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (Vol. 67, No. 6, pp. 1145-1176, 2003), a highly respected geochemical journal. If Drs. Dublyansky and Smirnov wish to pursue this issue further, the Board suggests that they prepare comments on the published version of the report by Wilson et al and submit the comments to the journal for publication. Their views, and any response by Wilson et al, would then be exposed to the larger scientific community.

Thank you for keeping the Board informed.

Sincerely,

{Signed by}

Richard R. Parizek  
Chair, Panel on the Natural System