



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 29, 1995

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Acting Director
Office of Program Management and Integration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Milner:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Observation Audit Report 95-05 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) audit of the Quality Assurance (QA) program of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The audit, YM-ARC-95-07, was conducted from March 6 through 10, 1995, in Livermore, California. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the LLNL QA program in all applicable QA programmatic areas and in five technical areas. The State of Nevada did not have a representative at this audit.

The NRC staff evaluated the YMQAD audit to gain confidence that OCRWM and LLNL are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the YMQAD audit process and the LLNL QA program on direct observations of the audit team members; discussions with audit team and SNL personnel; and reviews of the audit plan, the audit checklists, and other pertinent documents.

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YM-ARC-95-07 was useful and effective. The audit was organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner and was generally effective. However, the technical portion of the audit was marginally effective. The Technical Specialist on the audit team was replaced just prior to the audit, and the replacement's familiarity with the High-Level Waste program, with LLNL activities, and with the DOE auditing process was less than it should have been. In addition, the scope of technical activities audited was beyond the areas of specialization of most Technical Specialists.

Audit team members, the auditors and the Technical Specialists, were independent of the activities they audited. The auditors were well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

The NRC staff agrees with the YMQAD audit team's preliminary finding that the overall implementation of the SNL QA program is effective. No Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were identified by the YMQAD audit team. Nine potential CARs were acceptably resolved by the LLNL organization during the audit.

9504120300 950329
PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

102.7
WM-11
NHL 16

OCRWM should continue to closely monitor implementation of the LLNL QA program to ensure that future QA program implementation is effective. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess LLNL implementation of its QA program.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

15/
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste & Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
W. Barnes, YMPO
C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, DC
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
W. Cameron, White Pine County, NV
R. Williams, Lander County, NV
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
W. Barnard, NWTRB
R. Holden, NCAI
E. Lowery, NIEC
S. Brocoun, YMPO
R. Arnold, Pahrump, NV

DISTRIBUTION: Central File PUBLIC ACNW LSS CNWRA
DWM r/f HLUR r/f RJohnson JAustin MBell MFederline
PBrooks JBuckley MDelligatti BMabrito RBrient On-Site Reps

S:\DWM\HLUR\JGS\LLNL-0A.Rpt

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

In small Box on "OFC" line enter: C = Cover Only; E = Cover & Enclosure; N = No Copy
In small Box on "DATE" line enter: M = E-Mail Distribution; H = Hard Copy

OFC	HLUR	E	HLUR	E	HLUR			
NAME	JGSpraul/jk		JOTHoma		JJHolonich			
DATE	03/28/95	H	3/28/95		3/29/95			

OCRWM should continue to closely monitor implementation of the LLNL QA program to ensure that future QA program implementation is effective. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess LLNL implementation of its QA program.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

15/
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste & Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
W. Barnes, YMPO
C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, DC
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
W. Cameron, White Pine County, NV
R. Williams, Lander County, NV
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
W. Barnard, NWTRB
R. Holden, NCAI
E. Lowery, NIEC
S. Brocoum, YMPO
R. Arnold, Pahrump, NV

DISTRIBUTION: Central File PUBLIC ACNW LSS CNWRA
DWM r/f HLUR r/f RJohnson JAustin MBell MFederline
PBrooks JBuckley MDelligatti BMabrito RBrient On-Site Reps

S:\DWM\HLUR\JGS\LLNL-0A.Rpt

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

In small Box on "OFC" line enter: C = Cover Only; E = Cover & Enclosure; N = No Copy
In small Box on "DATE" line enter: M = E-Mail Distribution; H = Hard Copy

OFC	HLUR	E	HLUR	E	HLUR	.			
NAME	JGSpraul/jk		JOThoma		JJHolonich				
DATE	03/28/95	H	3/28/95		3/29/95				