

January 7, 2002

Mr. Bruce Mabrito  
Director of Quality Assurance  
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
6220 Culebra Road, Bldg. 189/A121  
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: INPUT FOR OBSERVATION AUDIT REPORT OAR-02-02, "OBSERVATION  
AUDIT OF THE BECHTEL SAIC COMPANY, LLC, AUDIT NO. BSC-SA-02-005  
OF METAL SAMPLES COMPANY" - INTERMEDIATE MILESTONE  
IM20.1402.331.212

Dear Mr. Mabrito:

We have reviewed the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses' (CNWRA's) December 11, 2001, letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which transmitted pre-decisional input to the NRC for Observation Audit Report No. QAR-02-02 for the U.S. Department of Energy's Management and Operating Contractor's audit of the Metal Samples Company in Munford, Alabama on November 26-28, 2001. Based on our review of this input, we consider that the CNWRA's December 11, 2001, submittal fulfills the Intermediate Milestone Number 20.1402.331.212 for support during the NRC's observation activities for this audit.

We note that once the audit observation report is signed by the team members, there may be some non-technical editing directed by NRC management during their review of the report. These edits are not normally presented to the team members for review. However, if there are significant changes or changes of a technical nature, we will discuss these changes with you.

We appreciate all of the support provided by the CNWRA's quality assurance and technical staff during this audit observation, including the outstanding timeliness for providing this input to the staff. However, we note that some minor editing had to be performed on the CNWRA's input prior to submitting the report to NRC management (Ted Carter, NRC/Division of Waste Management, discussed this editing with you on December 27, 2001). It may be useful for the CNWRA staff to periodically review the editorial guidance provided in my September 19, 2000, letter to you.

If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please contact me at (301) 415-5000.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry Campbell  
Senior Quality Assurance Engineer  
High-Level Waste and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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