

MAR 29 1991

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION REPORT NO. 91-S1 ON QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEILLANCE
YMP-SR-91-06 OF THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT FOR MIDWAY VALLEY
TRENCHING AND CALCITE/SILICA ACTIVITIES (YMP/CM-0007, REVISION 2)

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Surveillance Observation Report No. 91-S1 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Surveillance No. YMP-SR-91-006 of Technical Requirements Document YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2.

The NRC staff observed and evaluated the DOE/YMPO QA surveillance to gain confidence that Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) personnel are adequately implementing their QA program controls which are applicable to the preparation and review of the "Technical Requirements for the Yucca Mountain Project (Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities)" (YMP/CM-0007), Revision 2. The NRC staff's evaluation is based on direct observations of the surveillance team members, discussions with the surveillance team and YMP (both YMPO and Sandia National Laboratories) staff, and reviews of pertinent QA and technical records.

The DOE/YMPO surveillance team was familiar with the QA programs and relevant QA procedures. Their checklists for this surveillance were well prepared and used in evaluating the implementation of the QA procedures and controls in the preparation and rereview of the Technical Requirements Document. The team seemed to have a good knowledge of the requirements of the QA program controls and applicable QA procedures.

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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The NRC staff agrees with the DOE/YMPO surveillance team's preliminary conclusion that the preparation and rereview of Technical Requirements Document YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2 was in accordance with the QA program procedures and controls.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Mr. Kenneth Hooks of my staff at (301)/FTS-492-0447.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

for John J. Linehan, Acting Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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SURVEILLANCE OBSERVATION REPORT NO. 91-S1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) is responsible for preparing the site characterization planning drawings and specifications for the Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities. As a consequence, the YMPO and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) were involved in preparing "Technical Requirements Document for the Yucca Mountain Project (Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities)," YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2, which provides input to the design organization, defines the objectives and constraints and defines a basis, traceable from the Waste Management System Requirements (WMSR) Document, as to why the Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities are being conducted and which interactions must be controlled.

The YMPO quality assurance (QA) organization conducted a QA surveillance (YMP-SR-91-006) of Technical Requirements Document YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2 at Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 28, 1990, and at SNL, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on December 3 and 4, 1990. The surveillance activities were followed by an exit meeting in Las Vegas, on December 5, 1990, to discuss the results of this surveillance.

This report documents the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's assessment of the effectiveness of this surveillance and the adequacy of the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) QA programs at YMPO and SNL in controlling the preparation and review of the Technical Requirements Document.

2.0 PURPOSE

This surveillance, YMP-SR-91-006, was determined by DOE to be necessary due to deficiencies identified during the Audit 90-I-01 review of YMP/CM-0007, Revision 1, and the need to determine if this document received an adequate rereview in accordance with the QA program requirements and in particular with Quality Management Procedure QMP-06-04 "Development, Review, Approval and Revision Processes."

3.0 SURVEILLANCE PARTICIPANTS

Terry Noland, Science Application International Corporation/Westinghouse -
Team Leader
Jim Blaylock, YMPO - Team Member
John Gilray, NRC Observer (Las Vegas, NV portion of surveillance)

4.0 SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY RESULTS

Detailed check lists identifying the characteristics and processes to be reviewed at YMPO and SNL were prepared and used throughout this surveillance. Particular attention was devoted by the surveillance team to a thorough review of the documented comments of reviewers and the resolutions to these comments. Technical Requirements Document YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2 was also reviewed to determine that the resolutions to the comments were adequately incorporated in the document.

In addition, the surveillance team traced the requirements in YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2 back to the higher level hierarchy requirements documents to assure proper accountability and traceability.

Overall, the DOE/YMPO surveillance team determined that "Technical Requirements for the Yucca Mountain Project (Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities)," YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2 was prepared and reviewed in accordance with YMP QA procedures and controls; no deficiencies were identified. Therefore, it was concluded by the surveillance team that the QA program was being adequately implemented throughout the rereview process.

5.0 NRC CONCLUSIONS

The NRC staff determined this limited surveillance to be useful, productive, and effective in evaluating the adequacy of the QA program controls applicable to the preparation and review of YMP/CM-0007, Revision 2. The DOE/YMPO surveillance team was familiar with the QA programs and relevant QA procedures. The checklists used by the surveillance team were well prepared and used throughout the surveillance process. The surveillance team exhibited thoroughness in its review of the comments and resolutions and in its check to assure that the resolutions were properly incorporated in the Technical Requirements Document. The NRC staff is in general agreement with the surveillance team preliminary conclusion that Revision 2 of the Technical Requirements Document was properly prepared and reviewed in accordance with the YMP QA program procedures and controls.

Additional surveillances by DOE/YMPO will be necessary in order to verify acceptable implementation of corrective actions for other deficiencies relating to the Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite/Silica Activities which were identified in Audit 90-I-01 of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management QA program.