



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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Mr. John Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

Enclosed are the U.S. Department of Energy responses to observations made by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) during Quality Assurance Audit 89-6 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

If you have any concerns regarding these responses, please contact me at 586-1462.

Sincerely,

Gordon Appel, Chief
Licensing Branch
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosure:

- 1) Yucca Mountain Project Office Response to NRC Staff Conclusions Contained In NRC Observation Report for QA Audit 89-6

cc:

J. Kennedy, NRC
R. Loux, State of Nevada
C. Johnson, State of Nevada
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV

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ADD: J Kennedy

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**YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT OFFICE RESPONSE TO NRC STAFF CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN
NRC OBSERVATION REPORT FOR QA AUDIT NO. 89-6**

Weakness 1:

The DOE audit team members need additional training in coordinating the results of technical specialist and auditor findings in related areas. Improved coordination would enhance the ability of the audit team to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the audited organization's QA program. (Sections 4.4(b) and (c))

Response:

The Project Office agrees with the comment. Efforts have been made with each audit and will continue to be made to improve the audit process. It is realized that an important part of the audit process is the interaction between technical specialists and programmatic auditors.

Weakness 2:

The DOE audit procedure(s) should be modified to explicitly require that previous NRC and State of Nevada observations be reviewed to determine the scope of the audit. (Section 4.4(f))

Response:

The Project Office will review this comment further to determine if this should be included in the audit procedure(s) or as just part of auditor training.