



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JAN 10 1990

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing & 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:

Reference:

1) Letter from J. Linehan to R. Stein; dated November 9, 1989;
re: Progress of YMPO Quality Assurance program

We understand the concern expressed in your November 9, 1989, letter regarding the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) progress in developing and implementing a Quality Assurance (QA) program (Reference 1).

The DOE program has been restructured as outlined in our Report to Congress on Reassessment of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program (DOE/RW-0247) and significant strides have been made by the DOE and Program Participants with respect to Quality Assurance. The DOE is currently implementing a plan to revise the Project Office QA program; the plan will be fully implemented in the July-August 1990 timeframe. Consequently, after implementation of corrective actions at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and completion of qualification audits at LANL, the Project Office, and OCRWM, all required qualification audits for the Yucca Mountain program will be completed by the end of August, 1990. These milestones are well in advance of the current plan for initiating site characterization in January, 1991. We are confident that the DOE program will meet all applicable QA regulatory requirements to conduct new site characterization activities.

We believe the actions stated above will satisfy your concerns regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 586-1462 or Dwight Shelor of our Office of Quality Assurance at 586-7220.

Sincerely,

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

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cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Clark County, NV