

KH/ACCP LANL

MAY 29 1991

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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: ACCEPTANCE OF LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)
QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAM

This letter responds to those portions of your letter of January 22, 1991, to Robert Browning and your letter to me dated February 6, 1991 requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) accept the LANL QA program for implementation of new site characterization activities. Your letters state that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that the LANL QA program is acceptable to support the initiation of all site characterization activities.

The information provided in your letter of January 22, 1991 concerning the LANL QA program is consistent with the criteria agreed upon by the NRC and DOE and discussed in detail in my letters to you dated October 24, 1990 and January 18, 1991 accepting other DOE high-level waste geological repository QA programs. Based on the NRC staff observations of DOE audits and surveillances of the LANL QA program, and independent evaluation of the information provided in your January 22, 1991 letter, the NRC staff agrees with the DOE conclusion that the LANL QA program is acceptable for implementation of new site characterization activities.

The NRC staff is still evaluating those portions of your request concerning the acceptability of the SAIC/T&MSS QA program. In addition, the staff is waiting on information requested by K. Hooks of my staff during telephone conversations with J. Blaylock of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office.

The NRC staff will continue to monitor the LANL QA program by participating on a selective basis as observers in the DOE audit process, or by performing its own independent audits or surveillances to verify the adequacy and effectiveness of the QA program.

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Should you have any questions concerning the NRC staff acceptance of the LANL QA program, please contact Mr. Kenneth Hooks of my staff at (301)/FTS 492-0447.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by *Joseph J. Holonick*)

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

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
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M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
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