

MAY 28 1991

89001354

- 1 -

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-S7 ON QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEILLANCE
YMP-SR-91-015 OF THE SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

I am transmitting the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Surveillance Observation Report No. 91-S7 for the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Surveillance No. YMP-SR-91-015 of the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) QA program conducted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on May 6-10, 1991. A member of the NRC staff participated as an observer on this surveillance.

The NRC staff observed and evaluated the DOE/YMPO QA surveillance to gain confidence that DOE and SNL are properly implementing the requirements of their QA program by assessing the effectiveness of the DOE/YMPO surveillance and determining the adequacy of the SNL QA program in the areas surveilled. The staff's evaluation is based on direct observations of the surveillance process, discussions with the DOE/YMPO auditor and SNL staff, and reviews of pertinent SNL records.

The scope of this surveillance was limited to procedural implementation. No assessment of technical adequacy and qualification of any of the technical documents (technical procedures and laboratory and/or field data) was made during the surveillance.

The staff observer found the DOE/YMPO surveillance of the SNL QA program useful and effective. The auditor was well prepared and was familiar with the SNL QA Plan and the relevant QA procedures being implemented. The checklists for this surveillance were well prepared and used in determining the adequacy of procedural controls and status of procedural implementation of the SNL QA program under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 10 Part 50, Appendix B, Criteria 2 and 18.

9106030210 910528
PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

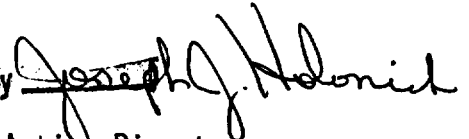
1/1
102.7
WM-11
NH16

The NRC staff agrees with the DOE/YMPO auditor's preliminary conclusion that the SNL QA program provides adequate procedural controls and procedural implementation under the criteria surveilled.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact 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

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV

DISTRIBUTION

CNWRA	NMSS R/F	HLPD R/F	LSS
LPDR	ACNW	PDR	Central File
BYoungblood, HLWM	JLinehan, HLWM	JBunting, HLEN	RBallard, HLGP
On-Site Reps	KHooks, HLPD	TVerma, HLPD	WBelke, HLPD
JHolonich, HLPD	JBuckley, HLPD	JConway, HLPD	

OFC :HLPD	<i>YAK</i> :HLPD	:	:	:	:
NAME:KHooks:bl	<i>JLinehan</i>	:	:	:	:
Date:05/23/91	<i>ASD</i> : 05/28/91	:	:	:	:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

SURVEILLANCE OBSERVATION REPORT NO. 91-S7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), a participant in the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project (YMP), is responsible for repository systems development; data management and analysis; systems performance assessment of the repository; conceptual design of the repository; determining the thermal and mechanical properties of the host rock; repository sealing performance requirements, materials evaluation, design, and testing; and providing assistance to other YMP participants in areas of specialized expertise.

From May 6-10, 1991, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) conducted a quality assurance (QA) surveillance (YMP-SR-91-015) of the SNL YMP QA program at Albuquerque, New Mexico. This surveillance was conducted in accordance with the YMPO Quality Management Procedure (QMP)-18-02, Revision 2, "Surveillance." A member of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in the surveillance as an observer. This report documents the staff's assessment of the effectiveness of the DOE/YMPO surveillance, the adequacy of the SNL QA program procedural controls, and the status of their implementation under Criteria 2 and 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 10, Part 50, Appendix B.

2.0 PURPOSE

This DOE/YMPO surveillance evaluated the adequacy of procedural controls and the status of their implementation under selected program elements of the SNL QA program. The staff's purpose in observing this surveillance was to gain confidence that the DOE and its contractors are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs by assessing the effectiveness of the DOE/YMPO surveillance and determining the adequacy of the SNL QA program in the areas surveilled.

3.0 SCOPE

The DOE/YMPO auditor selected Criteria 2 and 18 requirements from the SNL QA Program Plan (QAPP) for review and assessment of adequacy of procedural controls and status of procedural implementation. The specific areas reviewed were SNL QA audits, qualifications of personnel, and YMP-specific training of personnel. The scope of this surveillance did not include any review of the technical adequacy and qualification of technical products and activities such as technical procedures, laboratory notebooks and data, or field notebooks and data.

The scope of this surveillance was reduced from that initially planned, since the second member of the DOE/YMPO surveillance team was withdrawn from the surveillance on Friday, May 3, 1981 to perform more urgent tasks.

4.0 SURVEILLANCE PARTICIPANTS

DOE/YMPO

Amelia I. Arco, Science Applications International Corporation

NRC

Kenneth R. Hooks, Observer

5.0 SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY RESULTS

The DOE/YMPO auditor conducted a detailed examination and review of SNL audit schedules, audit reports and checklists, personnel qualification and training records, and other relevant documents to assess compliance with the procedural requirements. The auditor interviewed several SNL and contractor personnel to assess their knowledge of relevant QA requirements and applicable implementing procedures under each criterion surveilled.

The checklists used were based on requirements in SNL Quality Assurance Procedures (QAP) 02-05 "Training and Familiarization Procedures," 02-07 "Qualifications of Quality Assurance Personnel," 18-01 "Quality Assurance Audits," and SNL Division Operating Procedure (DOP) 02-06 "Qualification and Certification of Personnel." Adequacy of controls and status of implementation for these procedures were assessed and documented on the checklist for each of the criteria surveilled.

The auditor concluded that the procedural controls under Criteria 2 and 18 are generally adequate and their procedural implementation is satisfactory. One preliminary Corrective Action Report regarding late issuance of SNL audit reports was identified by the auditor. Several other procedural deficiencies identified during the course of the surveillance were corrected prior to the exit meeting on May 10, 1991.

6.0 SNL AND CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL CONTACTED DURING THE SURVEILLANCE

Thomas E. Blejwes, Acting Dept. Mgr, SNL
Robert R. Richards, QA Division Supervisor, SNL
Gene A. Smit, QA Engineer, SNL
Jerry A. Letz, QA Engineer, SNL
David R. Hawkinson, QA Engineer, Mactec
Mary A. Tang, Training Manager, SNL

Alice P. Hotchkiss, Records Manager, SNL
Thomas F. Vanderbeek, Training, SNL
Curtis A. Barnes, QA Engineer, Mactec
Charles E. Foreman, QA Engineer, Mactec
Taber G. Hersum, QA Engineer, Mactec

7.0 NRC CONCLUSIONS

The staff observer found the DOE/YMPO surveillance of the SNL QA program useful and effective. The DOE/YMPO auditor was well prepared and was familiar with the SNL QAPP requirements and relevant implementing procedures for the areas surveilled. The checklists for this surveillance were well prepared and used in determining the adequacy of procedural controls under Criteria 2 and 18. The auditor was thorough and professional in conducting the surveillance, and did not hesitate to depart from the checklist items to pursue information required to demonstrate adequacy of implementation.

The NRC staff observer and the DOE/YMPO auditor were able to review all pertinent personnel qualification and training documents. SNL YMP personnel were cooperative, and retrievability of documentation requested by the DOE/YMPO auditor was generally very good.

The NRC staff agrees with the DOE/YMPO auditor's preliminary conclusions that the SNL QA program provides adequate procedural controls and that the procedural implementation of the procedures under the criteria surveilled is also adequate.