

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUN 19 1991

Mr. 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
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

This responds to your letter of May 13, 1991 (Linehan to Shelor), relative to a request by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) support an independent Quality Assurance (QA) audit of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) by the NRC staff. The NRC audit plan spans a 5-day period and covers the USGS Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project QA program associated with Study Plan 8.3.1.2.3.1, "Site Saturated Zone Ground-Water Flow System." NRC requested that the audit be conducted in the late July 1991 time frame.

A review of our records (refer to Enclosure) identifies two audits and seven surveillances performed by DOE at the USGS since November 1989. The NRC participated in several of these audits and surveillances. The specific Study Plan you propose to audit was included in audit YMP-91-05 performed during May 20-24, 1991. No major deficiencies were identified during this audit by DOE or the NRC. Therefore, DOE questions the necessity for performing an audit of this activity at this time.

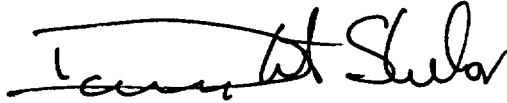
As a result of discussions between DOE and USGS, due to the current DOE audit schedule and a reorganization at USGS, and to ensure availability of the appropriate DOE and USGS personnel, DOE cannot support the audit time frame requested. However, after reviewing the enclosed information, if the NRC staff still recommends the audit, DOE can support the audit during the week of September 16-20, 1991. The scoping visit by the NRC staff one month prior to the proposed September audit date can be accommodated by DOE.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Desell of my office at (202) 586-1462.

Sincerely,



Dwight E. Shelor
Acting Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosure:
USGS Audit and Surveillance Matrix

cc w/Enclosure:
C. Gertz, YMPO
R. Loux, State of Nevada
K. Whipple, Lincoln County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
J. Bingham, Clark County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
B. Raper, Nye County, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
R. Campbell, Inyo County, CA
R. Michener, Inyo County, CA
G. Derby, Lander County, NV
P. Goicoechea, Eureka, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
C. Jackson, Mineral County, NV
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
L. Vaughan, Esmeralda County, NV
K. Hooks, NRC

ENCLOSURE

USGS AUDIT AND SURVEILLANCE MATRIX

AUDIT/SURV REPORT # DATE	NO. OF CARS/SDR	SCOPE	NRC PARTICIPANTS	PAGE 1
AUDIT YMP-91-05 5/20-24/91	4 CARS	PROGRAMMATIC AND TECHNICAL AUDIT	J. GILRAY, T. VERMA, A. IBRAHAM, B. MABRITO (NRC CONSULTANT)	
SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-90-012 3/28/91	NONE	IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING DEVELOPMENT AND DOCUMENTATION USGS QMP-2.07 PROCEDURE	NONE	(
SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-90-038 9/10-14/90	NONE	PROGRAMMATIC TO VERIFY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCUREMENT -MEASURING AND TEST EQUIPMENT -NON-CONFORMANCE REPORTS -CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS PROCEDURES	T. VERMA	
AUDIT YMP-90-003 6/25-29/90	9 SDR'S	PROGRAMMATIC AND TECHNICAL AUDIT	K. HOOKS, J. BRADBURY, K. McCONNELL, P. JUSTICE, T. TRBOVICH, T. VERMA	(-

AUDIT/SURV
REPORT

NO. OF CAR
SDR

SCOPE

NRC PARTICIPANTS

PAGE 2

SURVEILLANCE
YMP-SR-90-029
5/3-4/90

NONE

PROGRAMMATIC TO VERIFY
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCEDURES
RELATED TO:
-ORGANIZATION
-TECHNICAL APPROVAL OF
PUBLICATIONS
-PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL
PROCEDURES
-CONTROL OF SCIENTIFIC
NOTEBOOK & TECHNICAL
ACTIVITIES
-DOCUMENT CONTROL

NONE

SURVEILLANCE
YMP-SR-90-026
4/17-19/90

3 SDR'S

STUDY PLAN PREPARATION AND
TECHNICAL REVIEWS TO CLOSE
OUT SDR 418. ALSO INCLUDED
REVIEW OF PUBLICATION &
TECHNICAL PROCEDURES,
CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS,
AUDITS AND SURVEILLANCES.
STUDY PLANS INCLUDED

J. CONWAY, K. McCONNELL, J. GILRAY

8.3.1.2.1.3 CHARACT.OF
REGIONAL GROUND WATER FLOW

8.3.1.2.2.1 UNSATURATED ZONE

INFILTRATION 8.3.1.4.2.2 STRUCTURAL FEATURES
SITE

8.3.1.5.1.4 ANALYSIS OF PALEO
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

AUDIT/SURV REPORT DATE	NO. OF CAR & SDR'S	SCOPE	NRC PARTICIPANTS	PAGE 3
SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-90-017 1/22-25/90	2 SDR'S	PROGRAMMATIC- TO VERIFY IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN USGS PROCEDURES AND ALSO TO RESOLVE SDR 418	NONE	
SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-90-019 2/20-23/90	NONE	COMPUTER SOFTWARE SOFTWARE QA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	NONE	(
FIELD SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-90-006 11/14/89	NONE	FIELD SURVEILLANCE ON HP-62 "METHOD FOR MEASURING SUBSURFACE MOISTURE CONTENT USING A NEUTRON MOISTURE METER"	NONE	