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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: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA)
AUDIT OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

The purpose of this letter is to request that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) support an independent QA audit of the USGS by the NRC staff. The NRC audit could span a five day period and will cover 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" in the late-July 1991 time frame. It is planned to be an in-depth review of the activities associated with one or more procedures, starting with hydrologic data collection at two or more wells on the Nevada Test Site, and tracing the data back through the USGS Field Office. The NRC audit team will consist of two QA specialists and two technical specialists. The audit will be preceded by a short scoping visit by NRC staff about one month prior to the selected audit date.

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, please provide the DOE response. If DOE can support this independent audit, its response should include the most appropriate week for this audit, consistent with the time frame mentioned above and the availability of the appropriate USGS and DOE personnel to support the audit. I appreciate your cooperation in this effort to verify the adequacy and effectiveness of the DOE and USGS QA programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Kenneth Hooks of my staff. Mr. Hooks can be reached at (301) 492-0447.

Sincerely,

for (Original Signed by *Joseph J. Linehan*)
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
- 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

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