

OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LLNL

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JUL 17 1990

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
for Systems Integration and Regulations
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Stein:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 90-3 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. 90-02 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) conducted at Livermore, California from May 14-18, 1990. The NRC staff evaluated the DOE/YMPO QA audit to gain confidence that DOE and LLNL are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the audit process and the LLNL QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and LLNL documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/YMPO Audit No. 90-02 of LLNL was effective for the limited amount of work being conducted under the QA program. The audit was conducted in a professional manner and the programmatic and technical portions of the audit were generally effective and well integrated. The audit team was well qualified in the QA and technical disciplines, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. The NRC staff noted a slowdown in completing readiness reviews due to a budget cut which affected the start-up of many activities falling under the scope of LLNL's work.

In general, the NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/YMPO audit team findings that LLNL has an adequate QA program for the areas that were audited; QA and technical personnel were trained and qualified; and the LLNL Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) QA program has sufficient controls in place to continue developing scientific investigation plans, activity plans, and technical procedures.

DOE must closely monitor the LLNL program to ensure that future implementation is carried out in an adequate manner. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audit at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the LLNL QA program.

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Mark Delligatti on (301) 492-0430 or FTS 492-0430.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

Enclosure: As stated

cc: C. Gertz, DOE/NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO

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OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LLNL

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As last discussed at the April 27, 1990 NRC/DOE QA Meeting, the NRC staff can not make a decision concerning the acceptability of the LLNL QA program for new site characterization work (i.e., data collection, testing, etc), until the following information has been received from DOE: a statement regarding resolution of program deficiencies identified by LLNL, DOE or the NRC (all significant deficiencies resolved); identification of the extent of program implementation since the last NRC-observed DOE audit or surveillance (including work products produced and audits/surveillances conducted); a statement as to whether DOE can now determine the effectiveness of LLNL's QA program (and if so, what determination has been made); a statement of what areas of the QA program are still on hold (and the steps being taken to resolve the problems in these areas); and a statement of DOE's current position on the acceptability of LLNL's QA program to initiate new site characterization activities. Once this information has been received resolution of the NRC QA objection in the Site Characterization Analysis can take place.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Mark Delligatti on 301/FTS-492-0430.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

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*See previous concurrence

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