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JUN 2 4 1991

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-S9 ON QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEILLANCE YMP-SR-91-018 OF THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT OFFICE (YMPO)

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Surveillance Observation Report No. 91-S9 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/YMPO Quality Assurance (QA) Surveillance No. YMP-SR-91-018 of the YMPO QA program conducted in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 9-10, 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 YMPO is properly implementing the requirements of its QA program by assessing the effectiveness of the DOE/YMPO surveillance and determining the adequacy of the YMPO QA program in the areas surveilled. The staff's evaluation is based on direct observations of the surveillance process, discussions with the DOE/YMPO surveillance team members and YMPO and contractor staff, and reviews of pertinent YMPO records.

The scope of this surveillance was limited to procedural implementation. No assessment of technical adequacy and qualification of any of the technical products such as technical documents or data was made during the surveillance.

The staff observer found the DOE/YMPO surveillance of the YMPO QA program useful and effective. The surveillance team was well prepared and was familiar with the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance Requirements Document (QARD) and Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD) and the relevant OCRWM and YMPO QA procedures being implemented. The checklists for this surveillance were well prepared and effectively used in determining the adequacy of procedural controls and status of procedural implementation of the YMPO QA program under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 10, Part 50, Appendix B Criteria 2, 4, and 17. The surveillance team identified one potential Corrective Action Request (CAR) for a minor deficiency related to procedural implementation under the criteria surveilled.

The NRC staff agrees with DOE/YMPO surveillance team's preliminary conclusions that the OCRWM/YMPO QA program, under the criteria surveilled, provides adequate procedural controls and procedural implementation for quality affecting activities.

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If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Tilak Verma of my staff at 301/FTS 492-3465.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by

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
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SURVEILLANCE OBSERVATION REPORT NO. 91-S9

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) is responsible for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project (YMP) activities to study and evaluate the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site for developing and licensing of a geologic repository in the State of Nevada. These YMP activities include site characterization, scientific investigations, facility and equipment design, procurement, and construction, facility operations, performance confirmation, permanent closure, and decontamination and dismantling of surface facilities. All these activities are being conducted under an OCRWM-approved quality assurance (QA) program. The YMPO QA program is based on the requirements of the OCRWM Quality Assurance Requirements Document (QARD), Revision 4 and Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD), Revision 3.

On May 9 and 10, 1991, the DOE/YMPO conducted a QA surveillance (YMP-SR-91-018) of the YMPO QA program at Las Vegas, Nevada. This surveillance was conducted in accordance with the OCRWM 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 YMPO QA program procedural controls and the status of their implementation under Criteria 2, 4 and 17 of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 10, Part 50, Appendix B.

2. PURPOSE

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

3. SCOPE

The DOE/YMPO surveillance team selected Criteria 2, 4 and 17 requirements from the OCRWM QAPD for review and assessment of adequacy of procedural controls and status of procedural implementation. The OCRWM and YMPO procedural controls associated with the review of the System Requirements (SR), System Description (SD), Repository Design Requirements (RDR), the Exploratory Studies Facility Design Requirements (ESFDR) document, the

Site Characterization Program Baseline (SCPB) document, and associated change control and personnel training records were reviewed and evaluated. The scope of this surveillance did not include any review of the technical adequacy and qualification of technical products such as technical documents or data.

4. SURVEILLANCE PARTICIPANTS

DOE/YMPO

Donald J. Harris	Surveillance Team Leader, Harza Engineering Company
Terry W. Noland	Surveillance Team member, Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Kenneth T. McFall	Surveillance Team member, Science Applications International Corporation

NRC

Tilak R. Verma	Observer

STATE OF NEVADA

Susan W. Zimmerman	Observer

5.0 SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY RESULTS

The DOE/YMPO surveillance team conducted a detailed examination and review of the review packages for SR, SD, RDR, and SCPB. Personnel qualification and training records associated with the review of these documents were also reviewed and examined by the surveillance team. The surveillance team interviewed several YMPO personnel to assess their knowledge of relevant QA requirements and applicable implementing procedures under each criterion surveilled. The surveillance team used checklists and questions that were based on OCRWM QMP-02-01, Revision 2, "Project Office Indoctrination and Qualification Training;" QMP-03-09, Revision 2, Interim Change Notice (ICN) #1, "Project Office Change Control Board Process;" QMP-06-04, Revision 2, "Project Office Document, Review, Approval and Revision Process;" YMPO Administrative Procedure (AP)-3.3Q, Revision 3, ICN #1, "Change Control Process;" AP-1.5Q, Revision 4, "Issuance and Maintenance of Controlled Documents;" and QMP-17-01, Revision 3, "Records Management: Record Source Implementation."
The surveillance team was thorough in its review of documents and in ascertaining relevant information from its questioning of YMPO personnel.

The surveillance team concluded that the YMPO QA program provides adequate controls under the criteria surveilled. With the exception of one minor procedural violation, the team found that the procedural implementation was adequate and satisfactory for processing the SD, SR, RDR, ESFDR, and SCPB through the Change Control Board (CCB). The surveillance team identified a potential Corrective Action Request (CAR) for a minor procedural violation associated with the required training; for four of the reviewers, training was in fact accomplished after the document was reviewed.

6.0 YMPO/CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL CONTACTED DURING THE SURVEILLANCE

Bonnie Fogdall, Configuration Management Specialist, Technical & Management Support Services (T&MSS)
Kevin Harbert, Configuration Management Division Manager, T&MSS
George D. Dymmel, Systems Branch Chief, YMPO
Kenneth Beal, Assistant Project Manager, Project Management, T&MSS
Russ Riding, Plans and Procedures Division (PPD) Manager, T&MSS
J. M. Davenport, Senior Engineer, T&MSS
R. R. Schneider, Manager, Systems Engineering Department, T&MSS
Elaine Spangler, PPD, T&MSS
Paul Chadwick, Training Department
John Waddell, Assistant Project Manager, Technical Support, T&MSS

7.0 NRC CONCLUSIONS

The staff observer found the DOE/YMPO surveillance of the YMPO QA program useful and effective. The DOE/YMPO surveillance team was well prepared and was familiar with the OCRWM QARD and QAPD requirements and relevant OCRWM and YMPO implementing procedures for the areas surveilled. The checklists for this surveillance were well prepared and used effectively in determining the adequacy of procedural controls under Criteria 2, 4 and 17. The auditors were thorough and professional in conducting the surveillance, and did not hesitate to depart from the checklist items to ascertain information required to determine the status and adequacy of procedural implementation.

The NRC staff observer and the DOE/YMPO surveillance team were able to review all pertinent personnel qualifications and training documents. The YMPO and contractor personnel were cooperative and open in responding to questions and information requests by the surveillance team and the NRC staff observer.

The NRC staff agrees with the DOE/YMPO surveillance team's preliminary conclusions that the YMPO QA program provides adequate procedural controls under the criteria surveilled. The staff also agrees with surveillance team's conclusion regarding the adequacy and status of procedural implementation under the criteria surveilled.