

LLNL AUDIT REPORT

JUL 3 1 1991

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, 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 AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 91-8 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. 91-01 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) conducted at Livermore, California from June 3-7, 1991. 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 DOE/YMPO audit process and the LLNL QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and LLNL personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and LLNL documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/YMPO QA Audit No. 91-01 of LLNL was useful and effective. DOE/YMPO QA and technical audit personnel were generally well prepared for this audit. No NRC technical specialists were included on the NRC audit observation team since there was minimal technical work selected and available for this audit.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/YMPO audit team findings that the LLNL QA program was adequately implemented for the areas that were audited, with the exception of Criterion 18. One Observation was noted by the NRC staff in the QA Program area (Criterion 2); changes are being made to the LLNL QA Program Plan which was accepted by NRC and these changes are not being transmitted to the NRC staff. This subject has been discussed between DOE and NRC at several of the NRC/DOE QA meetings, and it was agreed that DOE would transmit all changes to the NRC accepted DOE QA programs to the NRC as an "information copy." The NRC staff is also concerned about what appears to be inadequate communication of QA issues to the respective LLNL individuals and organizations as observed at the audit entrance meeting and in the calibration area.

DOE must closely monitor the LLNL QA program to ensure that future implementation is carried out in an effective manner. The NRC staff expects to participate

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in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the LLNL QA program.

A written response to the Observation noted in Section 5.10 (a) of the enclosed report is requested. If you have any questions, please call William Belke on (301)/FTS 492-0445.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Holonich /s/ 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

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- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
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