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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: ACCEPTANCE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES (T&MSS) QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAM

This letter responds to your letter of August 1, 1991, to John Linehan which requests U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acceptance of the Science Applications International Corporation/T&MSS QA program for implementation of new site characterization activities and other quality-related activities for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project. Your August 1, 1991, letter supercedes your January 22, 1991, to Robert Browning and your letters of February 6, 1991, and June 17, 1991, to me requesting that the NRC accept the T&MSS QA program for initiation of new site characterization activities.

NRC acceptance of the T&MSS Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD) was required prior to our evaluation of the acceptance of the T&MSS QA program, consistent with past NRC practice. The NRC staff accepted the T&MSS QAPD which was submitted for NRC staff review July 16, 1991, by my letter to you dated August 22, 1991.

The information provided in your letter of January 22, 1991, is consistent with the criteria agreed upon by the NRC and DOE and discussed in detail in my letters to you dated October 24, 1990, and January 18, 1991, accepting other DOE participant QA programs for the high-level waste geological repository. Your letter of August 1, 1991 provides updated information to resolve the exceptions described in your January 22, 1991, letter.

Based on the NRC staff observation of the DOE audits and surveillances of the T&MSS QA program, and evaluation of the information provided in your January 22, 1991, and August 1, 1991, letters, the NRC staff agrees with the DOE conclusion that the T&MSS QA program is acceptable for implementation of new site characterization activities.

The NRC staff will continue to monitor the T&MSS QA program by participating on a selective basis as observers in the DOE audit process, or by performing its own independent audits or surveillances to verify the adequacy and effectiveness of this QA program.

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Should you have any questions concerning the NRC staff acceptance of the T&MSS QA program, please contact Mr. Kenneth Hooks of my staff at (301)/FTS 492-0447.

Sincerely,

original signed by
Joseph J. Holonich

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
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