

SEP 20 1991

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 SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION/
TECHNICAL & MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 91-9 for the U.S. Department of Energy/Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. 91-06 of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)/Technical & Management Support Services (T&MSS) conducted at Las Vegas, Nevada and at the Nevada Test Site from June 17-21, 1991. The NRC staff evaluated the OCRWM QA audit to gain confidence that OCRWM and SAIC/T&MSS are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the OCRWM audit process and the SAIC/T&MSS QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and SAIC/T&MSS personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and SAIC/T&MSS documents).

The audit scope included 18 programmatic elements or areas and quality-affecting technical activities related to meteorological and radiological monitoring. Due to the limited technical scope of the audit, no NRC technical staff members were included in the NRC audit observation team.

Although there was a limited amount of work being conducted by SAIC/T&MSS under the QA program, the NRC staff has determined that, overall, OCRWM Audit No. 91-06 of SAIC/T&MSS was of appropriate scope and achieved its purpose of determining the adequacy and effectiveness of implementation of programmatic and technical activities conducted under the SAIC/T&MSS QA program. The audit was conducted in a professional manner, and the programmatic and technical portions of the audit were effective and well integrated. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignment and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. The audit was well organized and was run with minimal logistic delays. The Audit Team Leader was well prepared and had a good knowledge of the SAIC/T&MSS QA program and the applicable OCRWM QA requirements.

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The NRC's staff agrees with the audit team's preliminary findings that SAIC/T&MSS has a procedurally adequate QA program for most of the areas that were audited. Although implementation in the area of Control of Measuring and Test Equipment was not effective, the NRC staff also agrees with the OCRWM audit team's conclusion that implementation of the SAIC/T&MSS QA program controls in most areas evaluated by the audit team was adequate. The acceptability of the technical products reviewed by the OCRWM audit team and the concomitant effectiveness of implementation of the QA program controls were not evaluated by the NRC staff since technical specialists were not a part of the NRC observation team.

OCRWM must closely monitor the SAIC/T&MSS 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 SAIC/T&MSS QA program.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call John Buckley on (301)/FTS 492-0513.

Sincerely,

^{SI}
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: C. Gertz, DOE/OCRWM
- R. Loux, State of Nevada
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- C. Thistlethwaite, Inyo County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV

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