



# United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
BOX 25046 M.S. 725  
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225



IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 4, 1991

WBS: 1.2.9.3.2

QA: NA

Don Horton, QA Manager  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization  
Project Office  
P.O. Box 98608  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8608

**SUBJECT: Results of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Audit of Site Characterization Plan Activity No. 8.3.1.2.3.1.2 (Site Potentiometric-Level Evaluation)**

Dear Don:

At the conclusion of the subject NRC audit held 9/16-20/91, the NRC audit team presented four potential findings that would be evaluated by NRC management as part of their audit report process. One of the four findings involves the technical adequacy of a scientific notebook.

This finding documents a philosophical difference between the USGS and the NRC audit team regarding the content of a scientific notebook. The specific requirement at issue is what is the appropriate level of detail. Also at issue is how that level of detail may be judged.

We are concerned that discussions surrounding this issue may have given the appearance of uncooperativeness or that the USGS is displaying a negative attitude toward quality assurance. The audit, we believe sincerely, was a positive experience. The NRC auditors conducted themselves in a professional and positive manner and we have no complaint with their conduct in any way.

The issue of scientific notebooks is an important one to the USGS and to all parties involved in site characterization activities. Upon receipt of the NRC audit report and findings, we would like to coordinate a meeting among DOE, NRC, and USGS personnel to further discuss this issue. We would appreciate your support for continuing this discussion in a constructive manner.

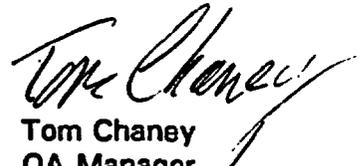
9110300204 911004  
PDR WASTE PDR  
WM-11

310-A

ADD: James Conway *ltr.*  
1

102-7  
WM-11  
NH03  
1/6

Sincerely,

  
Tom Chaney  
QA Manager  
Yucca Mountain Project  
U.S. Geological Survey

cc: J.F. Devine, USGS/Reston  
E.H. Roseboom, USGS/Reston  
V.R. Schneider, USGS/Reston  
R. Wallace, USGS/Reston  
L.R. Hayes, USGS/Denver  
D.H. Appel, USGS/Denver  
R.L. Luckey, USGS/Denver  
C. Gertz, DOE/Las Vegas  
J. Blaylock, DOE/Las Vegas  
K. Hooks, NRC  
J. Conway, NRC *M/S 4H3*  
J. Gilray, NRC  
N. Coleman, NRC  
YMP-USGS Local Records Center 3.18.01 (NRC Audit)

TC/mt  
109103