

DEC 20 1991

Mr. John P. Roberts, 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. Roberts:

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
(OCRWM) QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAM

This letter acknowledges receipt of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), OCRWM, letter to J. Linehan, dated August 21, 1991, which states that OCRWM has resolved the remaining exceptions to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acceptance of the OCRWM (Headquarters and Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office) QA program. The DOE letter then requests NRC acceptance of the OCRWM QA program, without exception, for new site characterization activities and other quality related activities.

In my January 18, 1991, letter to OCRWM, the NRC staff determined that the OCRWM QA program would be acceptable for new site characterization activities associated with Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite-Silica Activities, when the relevant DOE Audit 90-I-01 Recommended Actions were completed and verified as being satisfactorily resolved. The staff accepted, in my letter to OCRWM dated March 11, 1991, the OCRWM position that these actions had been completed and verified, and the OCRWM QA program was acceptable to initiate new site characterization activities associated with Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite-Silica Activities.

The NRC staff has reviewed the material concerning the remaining Audit 90-I-01 Recommended Actions (training, control of Technical Baseline, Corrective Action System, records, audits and surveillances) in the attachment to your August 21, 1991, letter. Based on our evaluation of this material and NRC staff observations of QA audits and surveillances of OCRWM, the NRC staff agrees with DOE that these issues have been satisfactorily resolved. Although some deficiencies in QA program implementation were identified in the November 1991 audits of OCRWM, the staff has determined that OCRWM personnel understand the requirements of a QA program based on Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix B, and are capable of implementing the procedures and controls associated with such a QA program.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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The NRC staff has determined that the OCRWM QA program is acceptable for implementation of site characterization activities and other quality-related activities for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project, with no exceptions. If you have any questions concerning this decision, please contact Kenneth Hooks of my staff at 301/FTS 492-0447.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by _____

for David Brooks

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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