

JAN 24 1992

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: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-04 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-92-05 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) conducted at Livermore, California from December 3-5, 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 contractor personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and LLNL documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/YMPO Audit No. YMP-92-05 of LLNL was useful and effective for the limited amount of quality affecting work included in the scope of the audit. The audit was well organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. No technical activities were included in the scope of the audit, and the audit team did not include any technical specialists.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/YMPO audit team findings that the LLNL QA program has adequate procedural controls in place for the items that were audited, and program implementation is adequate for three of the six criteria audited. The audit team found implementation of one criteria marginally effective, and the other two criteria were considered indeterminate due to a lack of quality affecting activities being conducted in these areas.

DOE should monitor the LLNL QA program to ensure that the one preliminary deficiency identified during this audit is corrected in a timely manner, and future implementation is carried out in an effective 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 LLNL QA program.

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Ken Hooks on (301) 504-2447/FTS 964-2247.

Sincerely,

*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

Enclosure: As stated

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