89001550

MAR 2 3 1992

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT OFFICE (YMPO)

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-06 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-92-07 of YMPO conducted at Las Vegas, Nevada from February 4-7, 1992. The NRC staff evaluated the DOE/OQA audit to gain confidence that OQA and YMPO are properly implementing the requirements of the OCRWM QA program. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the DOE/OQA audit process and the YMPO QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and YMPO and contractor personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and YMPO documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/OQA Audit No. YMP-92-07 was useful and effective. 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. The audit team did not include any technical specialists and no evaluation was made of the technical adequacy of work products.

The NRC staff observed only that portion of the audit dealing with Criteria 4 and 7. With regard to these criteria, the NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/OQA audit team findings that the YMPO QA program has adequate procedural controls in place, but that implementation in the area of Procurement Document Control is currently ineffective. Due to a lack of activity, implementation in the area of Control of Purchased Items and Services is considered to be indeterminate.

OCRWM should closely monitor YMPO QA program implementation to ensure that the deficiencies identified during this audit are 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 YMPO QA program.

NH16
102.7
WM-11

9203260251 920323
PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

Rec'd 3/26/92

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call John Buckley on (301)504-2513/FTS964-2513.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

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, CA
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
D. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
R. Williams, Lander County, NV
P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV
L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee

DISTRIBUTION

CNWRA	NMSS R/F	HLPD R/F	LSS
LPDR	ACNW	PDR	Central File
BJYoungblood, HLWM	JLinehan, HLWM	RBallard, HLGE	MFederline,HLHP
On-Site Reps	BBelke, HLPD	KHooks, HLPD	JBuckley, HLPD
JHolonich, HLPD	PBrooks, HLPD	MFinkelstein,OGC	

SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	:HLPD	:HLPD	:HLPD	:	:	:
NAME	:JBuckley/dh	:KHooks	:JHolonich	:	:	:
Date	:03/23/92	:03/23/92	:03/23/92	:	:	:

JB/YMPO AUDIT REPORT OFFICIAL RECORD COPY