

APR 03 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 OF AUDIT OF SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES (SNL)

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-07 for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-92-09 of SNL. This audit was conducted at the SNL offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 11-13, 1992. The audit scope was limited to eight programmatic areas, and did not include any technical reviews or evaluations.

The NRC staff evaluated the YMQAD QA audit to gain confidence that YMQAD and SNL are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the YMQAD audit process and the SNL QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, SNL and contractor personnel, and reviews of pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and SNL documents).

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit No. YMP-92-09 was well organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The auditors were well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignments and checklist items were, for the most part, adequately described in the audit plan. The audit team did not include any technical specialists since the audit did not involve technical reviews or evaluations.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary YMQAD audit team findings that the SNL QA program has adequate procedural controls in place, and program implementation is generally adequate, in six of the programmatic areas audited. Two of the programmatic areas audited were determined to be indeterminate, due to a lack of quality-affecting work in these areas. One preliminary Corrective Action Request was issued by the YMQAD audit team, concerning the lack of objective evidence of planning for readiness/preparedness reviews as required by the OCRWM Quality Assurance Requirements Document. This deficiency is not significant in terms of the overall QA program.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required.
If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ken Hooks on (301) 540-2447/FTS
964-2447.

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

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