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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, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION OF AUDIT OF OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY (ORNL)

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-08 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) quality assurance (QA) Audit No. HQ-92-02 of ORNL conducted in Oak Ridge, Tennessee from February 24-26, 1992. A portion of this audit, which was not observed by NRC staff, was conducted at the offices of E. R. Johnson Associates, Inc., in Oakton, Virginia on February 27, 1992. The NRC staff evaluated the audit to gain confidence that DOE and ORNL are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the audit process and the ORNL QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and ORNL personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and ORNL documents).

The NRC staff has determined that Audit No. HQ-92-02 was useful and effective considering the limited amount of quality-affecting work included in the scope of the audit. The audit was well organized and conducted in a professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well prepared and their checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. No technical activities were included in the scope of this audit, and the audit team did not include any technical specialists.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary audit team findings that the ORNL QA program has adequate procedural controls in place for the items that were audited, and program implementation is adequate for six of the ten criteria that were audited. The audit team found one criterion not being effectively implemented; one criterion indeterminate due to lack of significant quality affecting activities; and two criteria to be not applicable to the ORNL scope of activities.

DOE/OCRWM should monitor the ORNL QA program to ensure that future implementation is carried out in an adequate manner. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the ORNL 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 call William Belke on (301)504-2445/FTS 964-2445.

Sincerely,

JS

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: R. Loux, State of Nevada
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