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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Distribution

FROM: Susan Zimmerman *SWZ*
NWPO QA Manager

DATE: April 15, 1992

SUBJECT: State Observations on the DOE Quality Assurance Audit of
Los Alamos National Laboratory

On March 16-20, 1992, I attended the DOE QA audit of Los Alamos National Laboratory. This memorandum contains the State observations of this audit.

The Audit Process

This was the first "mini-audit" that the State has attended. The Audit Team Leader, auditors, and technical specialists were well qualified and did an adequate job. One area of concern regards the role of the technical specialists. There appears to be a trend toward more of a technical review during the audit than in the past. The checklists also tend to have more technical review type questions. This trend will be discussed at the next NRC/DOE/State QA meeting.

The LANL QA Program

I am pleased with the progress that LANL has made over the last four years in the acceptance and implementation of the QA program. The scientific notebooks I reviewed during the audit were very good. Although there is still some verbal reluctance regarding the requirements of QA, the scientists involved seem to understand the reason for the QA program and comply willingly. The scientists appeared to know the requirements of the QA program very well. The QA staff at LANL appear to have done a good job, both in helping the scientists to understand QA and in verifying that this understanding translated down to the work.

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ADD: Ken HODKS *WR.*

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