



AGENCY FOR NUCLEAR PROJECTS
NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT OFFICE

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
Telephone: (702) 687-3744
Fax: (702) 687-5277

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[Signature]

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

FROM: Susan Zimmerman^{SWC}
NWPO QA Manager

DATE: April 16, 1992

SUBJECT: State Observations on the DOE QA Audit of USGS

On April 1-3 and 6-10, 1992, I attended the DOE quality assurance audit of USGS as the State of Nevada observer. April 1-3 was spent observing the USGS work at the Nevada Test Site; April 6-10 was spent observing the USGS work in Denver. This memo transmits the State observations of this audit.

The Audit Process

The Audit Team Leader, auditors, and technical specialists were well qualified and did an adequate job. Again, there appeared to be a tendency of the technical specialists to do more of a technical review. Hopefully, the role of the technical specialist soon can be more clearly defined. The audit ran smoothly; there were no logistics problems.

The USGS QA Program

For the most part, the USGS has a good QA program and its implementing it well. I have two concerns from this audit. The first concern is the attitude about using the USGS scientific notebook procedure, QMP 5.05. There was a case of a P.I. not using the procedure because he thought the procedure was too restrictive. Granted, the P.I. involved had an "out" because of the agreement to use the old QALAs, but, by his own admission, he thought he should probably be using the procedure. It is unfortunate that this attitude still persists. The procedure in question is under revision but, hopefully, necessary requirements will not be deleted

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solely to make this P.I. more comfortable. The second concern deals with the work on the Gaseous Phase Circulation study plan. The USGS has identified the problem in an internal CAR. Diligence should be exercised to fully characterize this problem, correct it, and, hopefully, prevent other P.I.'s from ignoring QA requirements.

Distribution

**Ken Hooks, QA Project Manager
Division of High-Level Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555**

**Don Horton
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Director, Quality Assurance
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585**

**Carl Gertz, Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193**

**Charlie Warren
MacTec
101 Convention Center Drive
Suite 407
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109**

**Tom Cheney
USGS QA Manager
Yucca Mountain Project
Denver Federal Center
Box 25046, MS 425
Denver, Colorado 80225**