

JUN 11 1992

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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: MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 1992, QUALITY ASSURANCE MEETING

I am transmitting the enclosed minutes of the April 30, 1992, quality assurance (QA) meeting. The meeting attendees included representatives from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Nuclear Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor (M&O), the State of Nevada, Nye County, Nevada, Edison Electric Institute, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

At this meeting, DOE presented information on the following topics: (1) update of the M&O QA program and transition plans; (2) status of qualifying past core samples; (3) status of efforts to qualify data produced prior to QA programs being accepted; (4) update of the Quality Concerns Program; (5) status of the new OCRWM Quality Assurance Requirements Document; and (6) recent drilling activities at the Yucca Mountain Site. DOE and other participants also discussed the status of the mini-audit process and the role of technical specialists in audits. The NRC staff presented observation summaries of Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office audit (YMP-92-07), Oak Ridge National Laboratory audit (HQ 92-02), and Sandia National Laboratories audit (YMP-92-09). The NRC also gave a presentation on the status of QA Open Items.

During the meeting, DOE stated that it is not satisfied with either limited-scope audits nor annual programmatic audits. A new approach is being sought. If a change in audit style is deemed advisable, DOE will call a meeting to discuss the proposed new system. The NRC staff noted that it cannot evaluate the changes to the audit program until DOE presents the specific changes to the NRC for review.

The NRC staff noted during the meeting that it received the M&O QA Program Description (QAPD), which was requested at the June 25, 1991 NRC/DOE QA Meeting, on April 23, 1992. The rationale for DOE not requesting NRC acceptance of either the M&O QAPD or the M&O QA program, which was requested by the NRC staff at the February 23, 1992 NRC/DOE QA Meeting, had not been received by the NRC. In order for the NRC to provide effective and timely pre-licensing consultations to DOE, it is important that needed information be provided. Without the requested information, the staff is unable to determine if DOE's position, on not requesting NRC acceptance, is justified.

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At this time, the NRC considers the DOE position to be inconsistent with the process agreed upon by the NRC and DOE at the July 7, 1988 QA meeting. During that meeting, the staff and DOE agreed that NRC acceptance would be requested for all DOE and DOE contractor programs. This request would not be made until DOE first accepted the QAPD, conducted an implementation audit, and accepted the program itself. Although the M&O was not involved in the program at that time, the staff believes that due to the significance of the M&O program the same basic process and steps need to be applied.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed meeting minutes, please contact Ken Hooks of my staff at (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

¹⁵¹
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
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- C. Thistlethwaite, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV
- L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV
- C. Shank, Churchill County, NV

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*See Previous Concurrence

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NAME: PBrooks/dh	:*JBuckley	:*KHooks	:JHolonich	:	:
Date: 05/11/92	:05/29/92	:05/29/92	:05/29/92	:	:

Mr. John P. Roberts

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