



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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TO: John J. Linehan, Director, HLPD, Division of High-Level Waste Management

FROM: John W. Gilray and Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representatives

DATE: October 31, 1990

SUBJECT: CLOSEOUT MEETING OF SECOND YMP QA WORKSHOP

Participants of the second YMP QA workshop (refer to J. Gilray, P. Prestholt memo of October 16, 1990, to J. Linehan regarding the 2nd QA workshop) reconvened at Las Vegas October 25, 1990, to formulate a consensus report for Don Horton, YMP QA Division Manager. The two NRC On-Site Representatives (P. Prestholt and J. Gilray) attended this closeout meeting and the formal presentation of the result of the workshop to Don Horton on October 26, 1990. This report highlighted the goal of the workshop, the consensus of problems, statements and recommendations which included the following:

◆ The Goal of the Workshop: The YMP QA program -

1. Documents the R&D products for use in legal and regulatory arenas.
2. Would be consistently written and interpreted, and stable.
3. Is NRC acceptable.
4. Is compatible with scientific method.
5. Facilitates R&D activities within a regulated environment.
6. Allows initiative at working level.
7. Doesn't manage line activities.
8. Managers don't use for purposes other than assuring QA implementation.

◆ Consensus of Problem Statement:

1. Current total YMP QA program not well suited for use by R&D programs.
2. Current QA program does not adequately utilize decades of non-formal QA/QC scientific practices.
3. Overly conservative interpretation of baseline requirements leads to overly rigorous, inappropriate and ineffective implementation.

Thirty-three issues were identified related to the above Problem Statements. The two highest priority issues were worked, leading to recommendations for resolution.

◆ Recommendations:

1. Process for solving short term issues:
  - a. Technical publications
  - b. Explain document hierarchy
  - c. Procedures: (records definition, time to test)
  - d. Training effectiveness
2. Technical Advisory Group on QA (Senior Scientists)
3. Forum for mgt/tech./QA exchange
4. DOE/NRC/Participant interaction, e.g.
  - Informal technical interactions
  - Licensing workshops
5. Ensure that the QA Program makes maximum use of the Scientific Method (Maximize quality of Science not control of QA)
6. Appeals process

We believe this QA workshop consisting of TPOs, Scientists and QA personnel from the National Labs and USGS was very productive in that it brought the scientist and QA personnel together in a cooperative spirit to discuss the frustration and concerns experienced in trying to implement the existing YMP QA program. The group proposed actions that may lead to the resolution of these concerns.

We further believe that if the QA workshop recommendations are carried out that improved management and QA controls and interactions would be developed which would be more compatible to R&D and scientific activities and more effective in carrying out the NRC QA regulations.

This office will keep you abreast of the follow up actions regarding the workshop recommendations.