

MAY 21 1992

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph J. Holonich, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management

FROM: Kenneth R. Hooks, Section Leader  
Quality Assurance Section  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management

Subject: ON-SITE VISIT TO REVIEW QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) ACTIVITIES  
FOR RECENT CORE DRILLING FOR NEUTRON ACCESS BOREHOLES

Bill Belke and I made an on-site visit to the Nevada Test Site (NTS)/Yucca Mountain on May 7, 1992, subsequent to attending the May 3-6, 1992, American Society for Quality Control conference in Las Vegas. We were accompanied by John Gilray from the On-Site Licensing Representatives Office. The purpose of our visit was to discuss QA activities associated with the recent neutron access borehole core drilling which has taken place at the NTS. Although this was not a formal review of QA activities, we attempted to evaluate them in a general fashion.

We discussed Sample Management Facility (SMF) handling and storage of core samples with Chris Lewis, the SMF Curator, and viewed processed core samples from the latest neutron access borehole. Chris Lewis was knowledgeable about the requirements for core sample handling, and his discussion of the process was consistent with the core handling procedures recently reviewed by Division of High-Level Waste Management personnel. A good working relationship seems to exist between the U.S. Geological Survey personnel at the Hydrological Research Facility and SMF personnel.

We then met with Jerry Heaney and John Martin, who are part of the Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) and are responsible for YMQAD oversight of drilling and other field activities of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project at the NTS. Jerry Heaney and John Martin accompanied us to Trench 14, Yucca Mountain, the North Portal, and other areas of interest and discussed their audit and surveillance activities. The QA oversight recently given to the neutron access borehole drilling, as described to us, seems generally adequate, and the QA personnel competent and knowledgeable.

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I emphasized the need for YMQAD to make the extent, and results, of its involvement in field activities visible through audit and surveillance reports, and the need for some form of recording of Jerry Heaney and John Martin's daily oversight activities, which are not considered to be either audits or surveillances. YMQAD was made aware of this concern, through John Gilray, earlier this year and is working on the problem.

151

Kenneth R. Hooks, Section Leader  
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cc: B. J. Youngblood  
J. Linehan  
M. Federline

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