

SEP 15 1992

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 JULY 16, 1992, QUALITY ASSURANCE MEETING

I am transmitting the enclosed minutes of the July 16, 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's QA program and transition plans; (2) changes to the QA grading program; (3) the status of the response to the question from the State of Nevada on unauthorized persons collecting data; and (4) update on trending. DOE and other participants discussed the status of changes in the limited scope audit process. The NRC staff presented observation summaries of USGS audit (YMP 92-13) and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)/ Technical & Management Support Services (T&MSS) audit (YMP 92-16). NRC also discussed the status of QA Open Items and the need to receive audit plan books and checklists sufficiently well before the audit for the observers to prepare.

During the meeting, DOE stated that the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management has, by letter dated July 13, 1992, authorized the M&O to start specific quality affecting work under the agreement executed in January 1992 for evaluating the effectiveness of the M&O QA program, except for work currently subject to hold points. No additional work can be started later in the year without work authorization, which will include QA as part of the review. The NRC staff restated its interest in tracking the M&O QA program along with its continued review of DOE's QA program.

DOE presented the proposed changes in the QA classification and grading process, effective June 10, 1992. DOE expects the new process to be more efficient. A new Q-list based on the new process is expected to be issued in August. The DOE also expects to issue a trending report on significant Corrective Action Requests in the near future. Also discussed was the proposed

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limited-scope audit process that DOE is considering. DOE plans to give a briefing on the new audit process in September. The NRC staff reiterated that it can not make a determination on the acceptability of the new approach until after the briefing.

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,

Original Signed by



for

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
- B. Mettam, 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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NAME: PBrooks/did : KHooks : JHolonich : : :

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Date: 09/15/92 : 09/15/92 : 09/15/92 : : :