



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

**JUL 06 1992**

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

This letter is in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) audit observer inquiry made during the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Quality Assurance Audit YMP-91-I-01, conducted October 28-November 1, 1991 (reference enclosure 1).

In this inquiry, the NRC requested DOE's response to the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) letter dated June 25, 1990 (Horton to Shelor; reference enclosure 2). To close this outstanding inquiry, however, it must be acknowledged that though no response can be found to address enclosure 2, the issue of Quality Assurance (QA) controls on contractor procurements has been resolved.

Corrective Action Request (CAR) 92-007 (reference enclosure 3) was written as a result of Audit YMP-91-I-01 to address the lack of YMPO's procedures controlling the procurement process for the DOE Headquarters (HQ) contracts transferred to YMPO or other similar procurement documents which DOE field offices maintain to perform Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project (YMP) specific work.

Resolution of this CAR included the following:

1. Establishment of interim guidance for issuing program/technical direction for the performance of quality-affecting work (reference enclosures 4 and 5).
2. Confirmation from DOE HQ of contracts for which responsibility has been transferred to YMP (reference enclosure 6).
3. Issuance of Quality Management Procedure (QMP) 04-03, "Technical Directives," effective May 15, 1992.

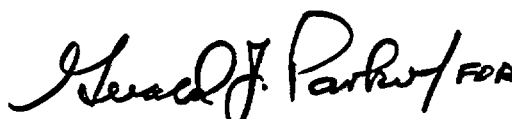
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QMP 04-03 delineates the use of technical directives by YMPO for establishing or changing procurement quality requirements for quality-affecting work that is being, or is to be, performed by a YMP participant or contractor currently under an existing DOE contract.

In the resolution of CAR 92-007, a review was completed of procurements existing at the time of the Audit Observer Inquiry and the impacts on quality-affecting work being performed with an Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)-approved QA program. Investigative actions for the CAR resulted in a root cause determination and corrective action to prevent recurrence of the condition. Evaluation of the CAR was completed on June 1, 1992, and final closure on the CAR was approved on June 4, 1992.

Should you have any questions, please contact either Donald G. Horton of the OCRWM Office of Quality Assurance at (202) 586-8858 or Sharon Skuchko of my office at (202) 586-4590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Roberts" with a stylized flourish at the end.

John P. Roberts  
Acting Associate Director for  
Systems and Compliance  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management

6 Enclosures:

1. NRC Audit Observer Inquiry
2. Letter, dated June 25, 1990; Horton to Shelor
3. CAR 92-007
4. Letter, dated November 12, 1991; Gertz to Distribution
5. Letter, dated November 22, 1991; Gertz to Distribution
6. Memorandum, dated December 23, 1991; Minning to RW-20

## cc w/Enclosures:

C. Gertz, YMPO  
K. Hooks, NRC  
R. Loux, State of Nevada  
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV  
J. Bingham, Clark County, NV  
B. Raper, Nye County, NV  
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV  
G. Derby, Lander County, NV  
P. Goicoechea, Eureka, NV  
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV  
F. Mariani, White Pine County, NV  
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV  
E. Wright, Lincoln County, NV  
J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV  
R. Williams, Lander County, NV  
J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV  
M. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV  
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA