

OCT 13 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, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-15 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-92-21 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)-Yucca Mountain Project (YMP). This audit was conducted at the LLNL-YMP offices in Livermore, California on August 10-14, 1992. The audit scope included fourteen QA programmatic areas and three technical areas.

The NRC staff evaluated the YMQAD audit to gain confidence that YMQAD and LLNL-YMP are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the YMQAD audit process and the LLNL-YMP program on direct observations of the auditors; discussions with audit team, LLNL-YMP, and contractor personnel; and reviews of the audit plan, the audit checklists, and pertinent SNL-YMP documents.

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit No. YMP 92-21 was useful and effective. The audit was well organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and its assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary YMQAD audit team findings that the LLNL-YMP QA program has adequate procedural controls in place, and program implementation in the areas audited is satisfactory except for Programmatic Element 19 (Software QA), which was found to be indeterminate due to lack of quality-affecting work in this area since the last audit. Five preliminary Corrective Action Requests were issued by the YMQAD audit team, none of which is significant in terms of the overall LLNL-YMP QA program.

OCRWM should closely monitor LLNL-YMP QA program implementation to ensure that the deficiencies identified during this audit and earlier audits and surveillances are corrected in a timely manner and future implementation is effective. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess the LLNL-YMP QA program.

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Ken Kalman on (301) 504-2428.

Sincerely,

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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
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