

NOV 25 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 LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report No. 93-02 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-93-02 of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)-Yucca Mountain Project (YMP). This audit was conducted at the LANL-YMP offices in Los Alamos, New Mexico, on November 2-5, 1992. The audit scope included six QA programmatic areas and four technical areas.

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

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit No. YMP 93-02 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 LANL-YMP QA program has adequate procedural controls in place and that QA program implementation in the areas audited is satisfactory. A total of three preliminary Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were identified by the YMQAD audit team. However, one of them was acceptably addressed by the LANL-YMP organization during the audit, leaving only two outstanding CARs. None of the three CARs identified by the YMQAD audit team are significant in terms of the overall LANL-YMP QA program.

300197

9212010369 921125
PDR WASTE PDR
W-11

102.7
NH/6/11
WMA

The NRC staff noted that the technical checklists did not address the area of existing data qualification. Further investigation revealed that LANL-YMP intends to use the YMPO procedure if it gets involved in this area. Since the audit checklists are based on LANL-YMP procedures and there was no LANL-YMP procedure to cover this area, the checklists did not cover this area. We recommend that future checklist preparation start with a matrix of the auditee's procedures versus OCRWM upper tier requirements to ensure that all applicable procedures are addressed in the checklists.

OCRWM should closely monitor LANL-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 LANL-YMP QA program.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 504-2446.

Sincerely,

JS
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
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
- P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV
- C. Shank, Churchill County, NV
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV
- E. Holstein, Nye County, NV

DISTRIBUTION

- CNWRA
- LSS
- PDR
- JLinehan, HLWM
- JHolonich, HLPD
- NMSS R/F
- LPDR
- Central File
- RBallard, HLGE
- On-Site Reps, HLPD
- HLPD R/F
- ACNW
- BJYoungblood, HLWM
- MFederline, HLHP
- QA Section, HLPD

OFC	NMSS:HLPD	N	NMSS:HLPD	N	NMSS:HLPD	N		
NAME	<i>JS</i> JSpraul/dh		<i>JS</i> KRHooks		<i>JS</i> JJHolonich			
DATE	11/17/92		11/17/92		11/15/92			

C = Cover only, E = Cover & enclosure, N = No Copy