

OCT 17 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: OBSERVATION OF AUDIT OF SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-16 for 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-92-22 of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)-Yucca Mountain Project (YMP). This audit was conducted at the SNL-YMP offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico on August 24-28, 1992. The audit scope included six programmatic areas and four technical areas.

The NRC staff evaluated the YMQAD QA audit to gain confidence that YMQAD and SNL-YMP are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the YMQAD audit process and the SNL-YMP program on direct observations of the auditors; discussions with audit team, SNL-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-92-22 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 SNL-YMP QA program has adequate procedural controls in place, and program implementation is generally adequate. One of the programmatic elements audited (Design Control) was found to be indeterminate, due to a lack of quality-affecting work in this area since the last audit. Three preliminary Corrective Action Requests were issued by the YMQAD audit team, none of which is significant in terms of the overall QA program.

OCRWM should continue to monitor SNL-YMP QA program implementation to ensure that deficiencies identified during this audit 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 audit at a later date to assess the SNL-YMP QA program.

9210220005 921017
 PDR WASTE PDR
 WM-11

WM-11
 102-7
 NH16
 11

Mr. John P. Roberts

2

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ken Hooks on (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

15/

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
- M. Murphy, 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
- E. Holstein, Nye County, NV

DISTRIBUTION

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| CNWRA | NMSS R/F | HLPD R/F | LSS |
| LPDR | ACNW | PDR | Central File |
| BJYoungblood, HLWM | JLinehan, HLWM | RBallard, HLGE | KHooks, HLPD |
| MFederline, HLHP | JHolonich, HLPD | On-Site Reps | JBuckley, HLPD |
| PBrooks, HLPD | MFinkelstein, OGC | WBelke, HLPD | KKalman, HLPD |
| JSpraul, HLPD | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---|---|---|
| OFC :HLPD | :HLPD | : | : | : |
| NAME:KHooks | :JHolonich | : | : | : |
| Date:10/07/92 | :10/11/92 | : | : | : |

S:\SNL.KH

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

October 3, 1992