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JUL 01 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, 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. Shelor:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE OF THE VITRIFICATION  
PROJECTS DIVISION

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Surveillance Observation Report No. 93-S3 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance (QA) Surveillance No. HQ-SR-93-01 of the DOE Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Vitrification Projects Division (EM-343) conducted in Germantown, MD on June 22 through 24, 1993. A member of the NRC staff participated as an observer on this surveillance.

The NRC staff observed and evaluated the OCRWM QA surveillance to gain confidence that OCRWM and EM-343 are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs by assessing the effectiveness of the OCRWM surveillance and determining the adequacy of the EM-343 QA program in the areas under surveillance. The surveillance, HQ-SR-93-01, focused on the development, preparation, review, and issuance of the EM-343 Waste Acceptance Product Specifications for Vitrified High-Level Waste Forms (WAPS). The surveillance team independently verified the flow-down of requirements from the OCRWM Waste Acceptance Systems Requirements Document into the WAPS.

The NRC staff's evaluation is based on direct observations of the surveillance process: discussions with the OCRWM surveillance team, EM-343 personnel, and EM-343 contractor personnel; and reviews of pertinent EM-343 records. The NRC staff did not evaluate the technical validity, adequacy, or correctness of the WAPS.

As a result of the surveillance, two preliminary Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were issued by the surveillance team. The adverse conditions identified in the preliminary CARs are not significant in terms of the overall EM-343 QA program and they do not reflect any major problems with the quality of the WAPS. The NRC staff determined that the surveillance was effective and agreed with the surveillance team that the WAPS adequately addresses the requirements of the Waste Acceptance Systems Requirements Document except for several items noted in the preliminary CARs. We understand that the adverse conditions noted in the final CARs will be tracked by OCRWM to ensure effective corrective action.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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One of the adverse conditions noted in a preliminary CAR was the observation that EM-343's development of the WAPS, a "quality-affecting" activity, was done without a procedure to cover such development. We request that you inform us of actions taken by EM-343 to preclude recurrence of this type of nonconformance.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 504-2446.

Sincerely,

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:

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