

MAR 25 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 AUDIT OF THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff comments resulting from its observation of the February 22-26, 1993, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, Office of Waste Management, Vitrification Projects Division (EM-343) Audit No. 93 EA-WV-AU-001 of quality assurance (QA) activities related to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), located near West Valley, New York. The EM-343 audit team consisted of an audit team leader, four QA auditors and two technical specialists. This audit was observed by Tom Rogers (CER Corp.) representing the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) and John Gilray representing the NRC. The State of Nevada QA Manager was aware of this audit and declined to attend.

West Valley Nuclear Services (WVNS) is a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corporation and is the operating contractor for the WVDP. WVDP is required to produce a high-level waste form product, including the glass form, the canister, and the production methods for shipping to and retention at the waste repository. The DOE West Valley Project Office (WVPO) is responsible for the construction and operations of the WVDP.

EM-343 previously conducted two extensive audits of WVNS and WVPO during June 17-21, 1991 (Audit No. 91EA-WV-AU-001) and July 27-31, 1992 (Audit No. 92EA-WV-AU-001). A number of deficiencies were identified, which resulted in the audit team concluding in 1991 that the WVPO QA program was indeterminate, and in 1992 that the WVPO and the WVNS QA programs were marginally effective. As a consequence of these findings the WVPO and WVNS identified and implemented a number of corrective actions to correct and upgrade their QA programs.

This audit (No. 93EA-WV-AU-001) focused on the acceptability and adequacy of those WVNS and WVPO QA controls, technical activities and work products which fall under the control of the OCRWM "Quality Assurance Requirements Document" DOE/RW-0214. Particular emphasis was placed on evaluating the acceptability of the corrective actions associated with the previously identified deficiencies and on implementation of these corrective actions.

Detailed audit checklists identifying the QA program and technical requirements were used throughout the audit covering programmatic

260035

9303260255 930325
 PDR WASTE PDR
 WM-11

102.7
 WM-11
 NH16
 1/0

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

elements/Criteria 2 "QA Program;" 3 "Design Control;" 5 "Instructions, Procedures and Drawings;" 7 "Control of Purchased Items;" 8 "Identification and Control of Items;" 9 "Control Processes;" 14 "Inspection, Test and Operating Status;" 16 "Corrective Action;" 17 "Records;" and 19 "Computer Software Controls." The main areas the technical specialists reviewed were (1) the classification of items and activities associated with the canister design, (2) the design and analysis of the canister, and (3) the computer software programs. The audit team investigated the WVNS and WVPO QA and technical controls in detail to determine whether they were acceptable and being properly implemented.

Three preliminary findings and six observations were identified by the audit team. The three preliminary findings issued by the audit team involved (1) a deficiency relating to an auditor's certification which had lapsed prior to his participation as a lead auditor, (2) lack of documenting the basis for determining quality level assignments, and (3) a design package for the canister lifting grapple not being available for review.

The NRC staff observed portions of the audit conducted by five of the six auditors/technical specialists. This involved reviewing the extent to which they investigated WVNS and WVDP compliance to QA and technical controls and the close out of previous identified deficiencies.

In summary, the NRC observer determined that the overall conduct of the audit was effective and agrees with the audit team conclusion that the WVPO and WVNS have implemented an adequate QA program.

A written response to this letter is not required. If you have any questions, please call Ken Hooks on (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

JSJ

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

See next page for cc's.

DISTRIBUTION

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

OFC	<i>JG</i> HLPD	<i>E</i>	HLPD	<i>E</i>	HLPD	<i>P</i>		
NAME	<i>JG</i> JGilray/wd	<i>JSJ</i>	<i>JSJ</i> KHooks		JHolonich			
DATE	<i>D</i> 3/13/93	<i>JSJ</i>	3/13/93		3/15/93			

C = COVER E = COVER & ENCLOSURE N = NO COPY
s:\wvaudit.jg OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

3

CC'S FOR LETTER TO DWIGHT E. SHELOR FROM JOSEPH J. HOLONICH SUBJECT:
"OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT," DATED

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
C. Gertz, DOE/NV
S. Bradhurst, 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
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV
C. Shank, Churchill County, NV
E. Holstein, Nye County, NV