

FEB 12 1993

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 REPORT NO. 93-S1 ON QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEILLANCE  
 YMP-SR-93-11 OF U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

I am transmitting U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Surveillance Observation Report No. 93-S1 for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance (QA) Surveillance No. YMP-SR-93-11 of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) QA program conducted in Lakewood, CO on January 13-15, 1993. The NRC staff observed and evaluated the OCRWM QA surveillance to gain confidence that OCRWM and USGS are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs by assessing the effectiveness of the OCRWM surveillance and the adequacy of the USGS QA program in the areas observed. The staff's evaluation is based on direct observations of the surveillance process, discussions with the Surveillance Team Leader (STL) and technical specialist, and reviews of pertinent USGS records.

The scope of this surveillance was limited to evaluating the verification and closure of Corrective Action Request (CAR) YM-92-04. CAR YM-92-04, which was issued by the USGS, documents the same deficiencies involving failure to follow procedures in field data gathering activities that were identified as a result of Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Audit No. YMP-92-13. During that audit, it was determined that implementation of Quality Program Element 20.0, "Scientific Investigation Control" was unsatisfactory.

The NRC staff has determined that the OCRWM surveillance of the USGS QA program was useful and effective. The STL and technical specialist were very familiar with the USGS QA procedures in the areas being surveilled. In addition, the technical specialist had a thorough knowledge of the work products which were examined. The NRC staff agrees with the OCRWM surveillance team's preliminary conclusion that USGS QA program implementation is now adequate in the areas surveilled.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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A written response to this letter, or the enclosed report, is not required. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact John Buckley of my staff at (301) 504-2513.

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
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