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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

JUL 13 1994

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 TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES
CONTRACTOR

I am transmitting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report 94-05 for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) audit of the quality assurance (QA) program of the YMQAD Technical and Management Support Services Contractor (T&MSS) - Science Applications International Corporation. The audit, YMP-94-05, was conducted from May 16-20, 1994, at the T&MSS offices in Las Vegas and at the Yucca Mountain Site, Mercury, Nevada. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the T&MSS QA program in all applicable QA programmatic areas and two technical areas. The audit was the first YMQAD audit of the T&MSS since the T&MSS QA program was revised to meet the requirements of OCRWM's "Quality Assurance Requirements and Description" document (DOE/RW-0333P). The State of Nevada was invited to send a representative to observe this audit but did not do so.

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

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YMP-94-05 was useful and effective. The audit was organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner. Audit team members were independent of the activities they audited. The audit team was well qualified in the QA and technical disciplines, and its assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary YMQAD audit team finding that implementation of the T&MSS QA program is adequate in each of the QA programmatic areas audited. One preliminary Corrective Action Request (CAR) was discussed by the YMQAD audit team at the post-audit meeting. Five other potential CARs were acceptably resolved by the T&MSS organization during the audit. Neither the preliminary nor potential CARs identified by the YMQAD audit team are significant in terms of the overall T&MSS QA program.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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YMQAD should continue to closely monitor implementation of the T&MSS QA program to ensure that the deficiency identified during this audit is corrected in a timely manner and that future QA program 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 T&MSS implementation of its 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) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste & Uranium Recovery
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
- R. Nelson, YMPO
- 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. Mariani, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
- J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
- C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
- L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
- W. Barnard, NWTRB

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OFC	HLUR	E	HLUR	E	HLUR	E	HLUR	N		
NAME	JGSpraul/jk		WLBelke		RLJohnson		JJHolonich			
DATE	07/06/94		07/06/94		07/13/94		07/13/94			

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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