



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MAR 29 1993

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

This letter responds to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) letter dated February 17, 1993 (Holonich to Roberts) which enclosed NRC Observation Audit Report No. 93-04 of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Quality Assurance Audit No. HQ-93-02 of the DOE Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Vitrification Projects Division (EM-343) Quality Assurance (QA) program.

As requested in the NRC letter of February 17, 1993, this letter provides a response to the weakness identified in the NRC Observation Audit Report, in Section 5.9.2, concerning "the list for those items and activities to which the EM-343 QA program applies."

As noted in the NRC report, the audit team documented this finding on a preliminary Corrective Action Request (CAR) later issued to EM-343 on February 16, 1993, as HQ-93-011. The identified adverse condition stated in part: "...A final, approved listing of the items and activities included in the Waste Acceptance Process has not yet been developed for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and associated activities..." This CAR was identified as being "significant," partially due to the fact that a related condition was previously identified and documented on CAR HQ-91-039 noting that EM-343 had not established or implemented a systematic method for defining the work that is subject to the EM-343 QA program requirements. In addition, no method existed for the selective application of QA controls to EM-343 work.

EM-343 has been requested to provide a response to CAR HQ-93-011 by March 15, 1993. This response will address remedial and investigative actions, root cause determination, and corrective action to prevent recurrence. In addition, the names of the responsible individuals and the scheduled completion dates will be identified.

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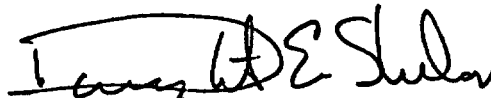
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OCRWM proposes that a copy of the EM-343 response and associated OCRWM disposition to the CAR HQ-93-011 be provided to your office for information. Once the agreed to corrective actions have been completed, your office will be invited to participate in the verification of corrective action prior to closure of CAR HQ-93-011.

OCRWM appreciates the concern expressed by the NRC staff concerning the list of items and activities to which the EM-343 QA program applies and will work with EM-343 to ensure that the corrective actions taken to resolve this concern are effective.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Donald Horton of the Office of Quality Assurance at (202) 586-8858, respectively.

Sincerely,



Dwight E. Shelor  
Associate Director for  
Systems and Compliance  
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CC:

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