

APR 30 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 YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION  
 PROJECT OFFICE**

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report 93-08 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) audit of the OCRWM quality assurance (QA) program as implemented by the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO). The State of Nevada did not have an observer at this audit. The audit, YMP-93-09, was conducted from April 5 through 9, 1993, at the YMPO offices in Las Vegas, Nevada, and at the Sample Management Facility on the Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the OCRWM QA program as implemented by YMPO. Eight programmatic areas were audited. No technical activities and no YMQAD activities were audited during this audit; YMQAD activities will be audited later by the OCRWM OQA.

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

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YMP-93-09 was useful and effective. The audit was well organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and its assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary audit team findings that YMPO implementation of the OCRWM QA program is adequate. Four preliminary Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were discussed by the YMQAD audit team at the post-audit meeting: three against YMPO and one against the Management and Operations contractor (M&O). Also, several other potential CARs were acceptably resolved by the YMPO organization during the audit. None of the preliminary CARs identified by the YMQAD audit team is significant in terms of the overall OCRWM QA program as implemented by YMPO and the M&O.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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OCRWM should continue to closely monitor YMPO and M&O implementation of their QA programs to ensure that the deficiencies identified during this audit are 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 YMPO and M&O implementation of their QA programs.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call John Spraul of my staff on (301) 504-2446.

Sincerely,

*JS*

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
- B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- L. Fiorenza, Eureka County, NV
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DATE	04/26/93	04/26/93	04/26/93	04/10/93			

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