

AUG 16 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 LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report 93-13 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) quality assurance (QA) Audit Number YMP-93-14 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory - Yucca Mountain Project (LLNL-YMP). The State of Nevada did not have an observer at this audit. The audit was conducted on July 19 through 23, 1993, at the LLNL-YMP facilities in Livermore, California. The audit scope included six programmatic areas and four technical areas.

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

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YMP-93-14 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 the LLNL-YMP QA program has adequate procedural controls in place and that program implementation in the areas audited is generally satisfactory. The only exception to satisfactory program implementation is in the areas of nonconformance control and software QA where there has been insufficient implementation since the last audit of these areas to judge their effectiveness. The classification of software controls continues as unsatisfactory from a previous YMQAD audit of that area because there has been inadequate activity in that area to change the classification.

The audit team provided six recommendations to improve the LLNL-YMP QA program, and six preliminary Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were generated by the audit team during the audit: five of the six preliminary CARs were

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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acceptably resolved by LLNL-YMP during the audit. The preliminary CARs identified by the YMQAD audit team are not significant in terms of the overall implementation of the LLNL-YMP QA program.

OCRWM should continue to closely monitor LLNL-YMP implementation of its 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 later to assess LLNL-YMP 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) 504-2446.

Sincerely,

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

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