

DEC 06 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 WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

This letter transmits the NRC staff comments resulting from its observation of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, Office of Waste Management, Vitrification Projects Division (EM-343), Audit No. 94 EA-WV-AU-01) of quality assurance (QA) activities related to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), located near West Valley, New York. This audit was conducted during November 1 through 5, 1993.

The EM-343 Audit was also observed by Pat Cotter, a representative of the DOE Office of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM).

West Valley Nuclear Services is a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp. and is the operating contractor for the WVDP. WVDP is required to produce a high-level radioactive waste form product, including the glass form, the canister, and the production methods for shipping to and retention at the waste repository.

This audit focused on the adequacy and effectiveness of implementation of the WVDP QA Program Description (WVDP-024) for those activities and work products under the control of OCRWM Quality Assurance Requirements Document (RW-0214). The audit team consisted of an audit team leader, five QA auditors and two technical specialists.

Detailed audit checklists identifying the QA program and technical requirements were utilized throughout the audit pertaining to WVDP-024 Criterion 2 "Organization:", 3 "Design Control", 4 "Procurement Document Control", 6 "Document Control", 7 "Control of Purchased Items and Services", 15 "Nonconformances", 16 "Corrective Actions", 17 "Records" and 18 "Audits." In addition, the audit team evaluated the corrective actions of those audit findings resulting from previous DOE audits.

Overall the audit was conducted in a competent and effective manner. The audit team investigated the WVDP QA and technical controls in detail to determine that they were acceptable and properly being implemented. As a result, four preliminary findings and seven observations were identified which were considered not to have a serious impact on the implementation of the WVDP QA Program. The EM-343 audit team concluded that the overall WVDP QA program was effectively being implemented for those areas audited.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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The NRC staff found the overall conduct of this audit effective in that it fulfilled the required audit scope and objectives acceptably, and the NRC staff agrees with the EM-343 audit team conclusion that the WVDP has demonstrated through implementation an adequate QA program.

Sincerely,

15/

C. William Reamer, Acting Director
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance
Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
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- J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
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