

DEC 03 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 SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report 93-14 for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) audit of the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) quality assurance (QA) program. The audit, YMP-93-17, was conducted from September 13-17, 1993, at the SNL offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the SNL QA program in seven programmatic areas and seven technical areas. A State of Nevada representative was an observer at this audit.

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

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YMP-93-17 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 SNL QA program is adequate in four of the programmatic areas audited, marginally adequate in the area of Procurement Document Control, and indeterminate in two areas due to lack of implementation. Five preliminary Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were discussed by the YMQAD audit team at the post-audit meeting. Four other potential CARs were acceptably resolved by the SNL organization during the audit. None of the preliminary CARs identified by the YMQAD audit team is significant in terms of the overall SNL QA program.

YMQAD should continue to closely monitor implementation of the SNL QA program 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

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess SNL 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 Ken Hooks of my staff on (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

151

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

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
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- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
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December 1, 1993