



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 27, 1995

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Acting Director
 Office of Program Management and Integration
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 U.S. Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Milner:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

I am transmitting Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report 94-12 for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division audit of the quality assurance (QA) program of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) activities. The audit, YMP-94-10, was conducted from September 19-23, 1994, at the LLNL facilities in Livermore, CA. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the LLNL QA program in all applicable QA programmatic areas and specific technical elements.

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

The NRC staff has determined that Audit YMP-94-10 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 discipline, and its assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary audit team finding that the overall implementation of the LLNL QA program is adequate. One preliminary Corrective Action Request (CAR), regarding incomplete documentation of a management assessment, was discussed by the audit team at the post-audit meeting. Seven other potential CARs were acceptably resolved by LLNL during the audit. Neither the preliminary CAR nor the deficiencies corrected during the audit are significant in terms of the overall LLNL QA program.

One NRC Audit Observer Inquiry was not fully responded to during the LLNL audit, and this is being held as an NRC Open Item as noted in Enclosure 2 until an acceptable LLNL response is received through the DOE. The open item involves electronic record keeping at LLNL as described in an LLNL Yucca Mountain Project procedure.

The implementation of the LLNL QA program should be monitored to ensure that the deficiencies identified during this audit and previous audits are corrected in a timely manner and that future QA program implementation is

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adequate. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess LLNL implementation of its QA program.

Because of the open item noted above, a written response to this letter is required. A copy of the open item is provided in Enclosure 2. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff at (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

JS

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste & Uranium Recovery
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures: As stated (2)

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
- R. Nelson, YMPO
- C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, DC
- 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
- W. Cameron, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
- J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
- C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
- L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
- W. Barnard, NWTRB
- R. Holden, NCAI
- E. Lowery, NIEC
- S. Brocoum, YMPO
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DATE	01/12/95*		01/20/95	01/17/95				

* See previous concurrence.

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