



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 06, 1995

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

Dear Mr. Milner:

SUBJECT: QUALITY ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE

This letter documents NRC acceptance of Revisions 1 and 2 of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Office of Quality Assurance document, Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD), DOE/RW-0333P.

By letter dated December 21, 1992, DOE transmitted Revision 0 of the QARD to the NRC (Roberts to Holonich). The document was transmitted "for formal review and acceptance." In response, the NRC staff reviewed Revision 0 and, in a letter to DOE dated March 8, 1993 (Holonich to Shelor), documented four open issues and stated that, once the issues are resolved, "the QARD can serve as an adequate framework for OCRWM and its participants to develop specific policies, plans, and procedures to implement their respective programs."

On May 24, 1993, OCRWM responded to the four open issues (Shelor letter to Holonich). The response was discussed at the July 20, 1993, NRC/DOE quality assurance (QA) meeting in Rockville, Maryland. The September 2, 1993, NRC letter to DOE (Holonich to Shelor) indicated the acceptability of the responses pending additional actions by DOE:

1. Demonstration that triennial audits, annual performance reviews/evaluations, and performance-based audits on selected work products do not reduce the confidence in suppliers' QA programs afforded by annual supplier audits.
2. Clarification of the QARD regarding acquired software and model validation in the next QARD revision.
3. Application by OCRWM for NRC QA program approval for the design, fabrication, assembly, testing, and modification of transportation packages.

Regarding these actions:

1. OCRWM continues to audit its suppliers and the program participants on an annual basis and has recently assumed the responsibility of auditing suppliers of the program participants. There is no evidence of

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a reduction in confidence of suppliers' QA programs, and this item is closed.

2. The requested clarifications have been acceptably incorporated into the QARD, and this item is closed.

3. OCRWM has applied for and received NRC QA program approval for the design, fabrication, assembly, testing, and modification of transportation packages (License #71-00786 dated August 17, 1994). This item is closed.

With the closure of these three open items and in accordance with the September 2, 1993, NRC letter to DOE, the QARD has full NRC staff acceptance.

A written response to this letter is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 415-6715.

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

cc:

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