



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
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OVERNIGHT MAIL

DEC 02 1998

John Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**TRANSMITTAL OF FISCAL YEAR (FY) 1998 QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGEMENT
ASSESSMENT (QAMA) REPORT**

On an annual basis, the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) sponsors an independent review of the effectiveness of the quality assurance program and our implementation of that program. The 1998 review was recently completed; this review included an assessment of OCRWM and our participants according to Quality Assurance (QA) Program requirements. The results of this assessment have been compiled into the enclosed FY 1998 QAMA report. The report includes information on the approach taken in the assessment, personnel contracted, members of the assessment team, and the recommendations made to OCRWM. We are transmitting this report to you for your information, since you requested that we discuss it with you next week at the Management Meeting on December 9, 1998.


Although this independent review determined that our overall QA program is adequate and effective, several areas were identified needing improvement. For example, the assessment recommends that a strong emphasis should be placed on resolving a number of key issues that have been ongoing for some time (a concern shared by other oversight groups). In addition, the report recommends that OCRWM management should establish and maintain a strong nuclear regulatory culture. We have taken a number of actions to address these recommendations, and will monitor progress in implementing these improvements.

The objective of the QAMA is self-identification of problems with the ultimate goal of timely and efficient correction. We believe the enclosed report reflects our commitment to ensure our program is effective.

If you have questions on this report, please contact Robert W. Clark, Acting Director, Office of Quality Assurance, at (702) 794-5583, or April V. Gil at (702) 794-5578.

OL&RC:AVG-0406

Enclosure:
FY 1998 QAMA Report


Stephan Brocoun
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