



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

February 19, 1998

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Director  
Program Management and Integration  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy - RW 30  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

Dear Mr. Milner:

I am enclosing the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report QA 98-01 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), performance-based audit of the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The audit, USGS-ARP-98-01, was conducted on October 28-30, 1997, at the USGS Office in Denver, Colorado. No representative from the State of Nevada participated as an observer of the audit.

The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the implementation of USGS' Expert Elicitation Process Quality Assurance (QA) Program requirements for the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis and the Technical Evaluation of the Elicitation Product.

The audit team concluded that the QA program and the technical output of the elicitation process had been satisfactorily implemented. The audit team made seven recommendations (see enclosed report). NRC staff agrees with the audit team's conclusion, findings, and recommendations. It was also determined that this audit was effective, and that the QA program implementation for the expert elicitation process and the technical output were adequate.

OQA should continue to monitor implementation of the QA program to ensure that the recommendations identified during this audit are carried out and the final output from the elicitation process is adequate.

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A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please contact Abou-Bakr K. Ibrahim of my staff at (301) 415-6651.

Sincerely,  
 (ORIG. SIGNED BY: - )  
 N. King Stablein, Acting Chief  
 Engineering and Geosciences Branch  
 Division of Waste Management  
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
 and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada  
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