



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

August 29, 1999

Mr. Dwight Shelor, Acting Director  
Program Management and Administration  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT M&O-ARP-99-002 OF THE  
CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT  
AND OPERATING CONTRACTOR

Dear Mr. Rousso:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report OAR-99-03 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance, Las Vegas (OQA) performance-based audit of the Quality Assurance (QA) program of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor (M&O). The audit, M&O-ARP-99-002 was conducted on May 3-14, 1999, for work being performed at the M&O offices in Las Vegas, NV, and Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM.

The objective of this performance-based audit of the M&O by OQA was to evaluate the processes and activities related to Total System Performance Assessment (TSPA).

The audit team concluded that the M&O QA program had been satisfactorily implemented for the processes and work conducted to date. The audit team made six process recommendations and initiated one Deficiency Report. The audit team was especially pleased with the process being a totally integrated effort rather than being a coordinated effort. Involved individuals were knowledgeable of the applicable procedures and the flowdown of the requirements. The NRC staff agrees with these conclusions and determined that this audit was effective and the M&O QA program implementation for the TSPA effort was effective.

OQA should continue to closely monitor implementation of the M&O QA program to ensure that the deficiency identified during this audit is corrected in a timely manner and that future QA program implementation is effective. The NRC expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess M&O implementation of its QA program.

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A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions please call Bill Belke of my staff on (702) 794-5047.

Sincerely,

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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Letter to D. Shelor from C. W. Reamer dated: August 29, 1999

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