



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

July 15, 1998

Mr. Samuel Rousso, Director
for Program Management and Administration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE
MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION AUDIT LBNL-ARP-98-12
OF LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

Dear Mr. Rousso:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report OAR 98-01 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) performance based audit of the OCRWM Quality Assurance (QA) program being implemented by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The audit LBNL-ARP-98-12, was conducted on May 18-22, 1998, at the offices of the LBNL in Berkeley, California.

This audit evaluated the implementation of the OCRWM QA program requirements and the technical activities associated with processes and controls related to LBNL activities supporting Work Breakdown Structure 1.2.3.3.1.2.4, "Percolation in the Unsaturated Zone - Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) Study," Milestone SP33PLM4, "Seepage Test Input to Unsaturated Zone Model," and Milestone SP33BM4, "Draft Report Fracture Flow and Seepage Testing in the ESF," and the Quality Assurance (QA) Program Elements directly related to Milestone deliverables. The audit team concluded that the OCRWM QA program had been satisfactorily implemented. One finding was identified and another finding was added to an existing deficiency report. The audit team also made two recommendations. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff agrees with the audit team conclusion, findings, and recommendations. The NRC staff determined that the audit was effective and that the OCRWM QA program implementation was adequate.

YMQAD should continue to closely monitor implementation of the OCRWM QA program to ensure that the deficiencies identified during the audit are corrected in a timely manner and that future QA program implementation is effective.

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A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Carter of my staff at (301) 415-6684.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Michael J. Bell, Chief
Performance Assessment and HLW
Integrated Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated
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Letter to S. Rousso from M. Bell dated: July 15, 1998

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