



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 5, 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 M&O-ARP-98-20

Dear Mr. Rousso:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report OAR 98-05 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division performance based audit of the Quality Assurance (QA) program of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating (M&O) Contractor. The audit ARP98-20 was conducted on September 28 through October 7, 1998, at the M&O Offices in Las Vegas, NV.

This audit was performed as a follow-up to concerns identified in Audit M&O-ARP-98-16 on the Technical Data Management System (TDMS). The audit team evaluated the effectiveness of identifying technical data and timely submittal of data to the TDMS, as well as ensuring that the data referenced in the technical reports is traceable to TDMS.

This audit involved reviewing eighteen deliverables, including technical reports from the viability assessment supporting documents. Nine out of the eighteen documents reviewed did not fully satisfy the QA program requirements; which resulted in a Corrective Action Request (enclosed). The NRC staff agrees with the audit team findings and recommended actions. OQA should continue to closely monitor implementation of the M&O 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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S. Rousso

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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
cc: See Distribution List

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S. Rousso

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Letter to S. Rousso from M. Bell dated: November 5, 1998

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