

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

November 20, 1998

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE
MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION AUDIT LANL-ARP-99-01

Dear Mr. Rousso:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report OAR 99-01 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 being implemented by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The audit ARP99-01 was conducted on October 19-23, 1998, at the offices of LANL in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

This audit was conducted to evaluate the technical adequacy of Milestone Report SP32E2M4SZ, *Reinterpretation of Reactive Tracer Test in Bullfrog Tuff and the Results of Laboratory Testing (C-Hole Update Report)*. The audit team determined that, with the exception of those areas where conditions adverse to quality were identified, LANL has effectively implemented the critical process steps for the preparation of this milestone report.

The NRC staff agrees with the audit team findings and recommendations. OQA should continue to closely monitor implementation of the LANL 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.

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,

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

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Letter to S. Rousso from M. Bell dated: November 20, 1998

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