

AUG 24 1993

Mr. Dwight E. Shelor, Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 1993, QUALITY ASSURANCE MEETING

I am transmitting the enclosed minutes of the July 20, 1993, quality assurance (QA) meeting. The meeting attendees included representatives from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Clark County, Nevada, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor, Edison Electric Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, and Science Applications International Corp./Quality Assurance Technical Support Services. The representative of the State of Nevada participated by telephone conference.

At this meeting, DOE presented information on the following topics: (1) update on the status of implementation of the Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD) document for the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program; (2) update on QA overview and status of field activities, tunnel boring and core drilling; (3) update on Fiscal Year 93 DOE audit schedule; (4) QA review of study plans; (5) responses to NRC's comments on the DOE QARD document; (6) QA applicability to resolution of Site Characterization Plan issues hierarchy; and (7) status of the new QA support contractor for the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The NRC staff presented information on the Open Items List and summaries of observations of recent DOE audits and surveillances.

During the meeting, the NRC expressed its growing concern about problems with the ongoing Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) design process, and DOE postponing the ESF Title II Design Technical Exchange planned for July 1993. The NRC also questioned the DOE concerning the controls applied to the issues hierarchy described in Chapter 8 of the Site Characterization Plan. Subsequently on August 20, 1993, the staff forwarded to you a letter (Youngblood to Shelor) documenting its concerns with the ESF design process. With respect to the question concerning the issues hierarchy, the staff requests a detailed discussion by DOE at the next QA meeting.

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Mr. Dwight E. Shelor

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If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed meeting minutes, please contact Ken Hooks of my staff at (301) 504-2447.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

for *Ken* *Joseph J. Holonich*

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
C. Gertz, DOE/NV
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
R. Williams, Lander County, NV
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV
J. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, NV
C. Shank, Churchill County, NV
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV

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