



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

APR 06 1990

Mr. Robert Browning, Director  
Division of High-Level  
Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Browning:

This letter is to notify you of the Department of Energy's (DOE) acceptance of the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Quality Assurance (QA) Program and to request NRC's acceptance, consistent with our agreements regarding OCRWM program participant QA program acceptance. It is the position of DOE that the SNL QA program is acceptable to initiate activities supporting new site characterization. Subsequent to both NRC acceptance and actual initiation of these activities, DOE will submit to NRC a plan and schedule for assessing the adequacy of SNL QA program implementation with respect to site characterization activities.

DOE's acceptance of the SNL QA program is based on:

- a) DOE review and approval of the SNL QA Program Plan (QAPP) and subsequent NRC acceptance of the QAPP (safety evaluation letter dated October 24, 1989, from Linehan to Stein).
- b) OCRWM surveillance of the Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) QA program qualification audit 89-3, conducted September 11-20, 1989. (Enclosure 1)
- c) OCRWM review and concurrence of the basis for the YMPO acceptance of the SNL QA program (by memorandum dated March 1, 1990, from Gertz to Shelor). (Enclosure 2)

With respect to "exception 2" on page 2 of enclosure 2, regarding the Privacy Act issue, it is the DOE position that the YMPO audit of SNL determined that the SNL QA program appropriately addressed the requirements for personnel qualification and that assessment of SNL implementation of these requirements will be performed upon resolution of the Privacy Act issue.

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If you have any questions, please contact me on 586-6046 or Linda Desell of my staff on 586-1464.

Sincerely,

*Linda Desell*

*for*

Ralph Stein, Associate Director  
Office of Systems Integration  
Integration and Regulations  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management

Enclosures:

- 1) Surveillance of the YMP QA Program Qualification Audit (89-04) of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)
- 2) Memorandum from C. Gertz to D. Shelor, dated March 1, 1990 re: Yucca Mountain Project Office (Project Office) Acceptance of the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Quality Assurance (QA) Program

cc:

- R. Loux, State of Nevada
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County
- D. Bechtel, Clark County
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County