



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

APR 13 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 Holmes and Narver, Inc. (H&N) 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 H&N 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 H&N QA program implementation with respect to site characterization activities.

DOE's acceptance of the H&N QA program is based on:

- a) DOE review and approval of the H&N QA Program Plan (QAPP) and subsequent NRC acceptance of the QAPP (safety evaluation letter dated October 3, 1989, from Linehan to Stein).
- b) OCRWM surveillance of the Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) QA program qualification audit 89-02, conducted April 24-28, 1989. (Enclosure 1)
- c) OCRWM review and concurrence of the basis for the YMPO acceptance of the H&N QA program (by memorandum dated March 1, 1990, from Gertz to Shelor). (Enclosure 2)

With respect to "exception 3" on page 2 of enclosure 2, regarding the Privacy Act issue, it is the DOE position that the YMPO audit of H&N determined that the H&N QA program appropriately addressed the requirements for personnel qualification and that assessment of H&N implementation of these requirements will be performed upon resolution of the Privacy Act issue.

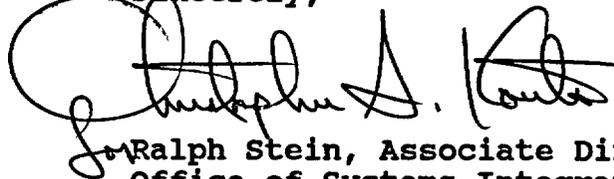
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If you have any questions, please contact me on 586-6046 or Linda Desell of my staff on 586-1464.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Stein". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and "S".

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 (89-02) of Holmes and Narver, Inc.
- 2) Memorandum from C. Gertz to D. Shelor, dated March 1, 1990 re: Yucca Mountain Project Office Acceptance of the Holmes and Narver, Inc. Quality Assurance Program

cc:

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