

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

committee: NQA-1 High Level Waste Work Group

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subject: Meeting Minutes

date: April 23, 1991

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NWSC Members

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Enclosed are the minutes of the Work Group Meeting which was held in Williamsburg Virginia on April 23, 1991.



Sam H. Horton
Secretary



R. E. Lowder
Chairman

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NQA-1 HIGH LEVEL WASTE WORK GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
APRIL 23, 1991

91-1 Members Present:

Dick Lowder, Chairman
Pete Bussolini, Vice Chairman
Sam Horton, Secretary
Tom Colandrea
Bob Clark
Jim Conway

91-2 Members Absent:

Frank Hood
Tommy Miller

91-3 Agenda:

Dick Lowder passed out the agenda which included nine (9) items for discussion (see attachment 1).

Discussions:

- 3.1 Before the meeting was officially called to order, Clarence Williams, Sub Committee Chairman on Nuclear Waste Management, addressed this work group. Clarence identified some action items which the High Level Working Group should undertake. These actions are summarized below.
- (1) Identify areas in the NQA-3 document and determine if changes need to be made to accommodate full endorsement by organizations using or planning to use this document as a standard. The plan to accomplish this action is discussed in subsection 3.4.
 - (2) Determine, through a survey, what organizations are currently using NQA-3 and in what application NQA-3 is being used. It was suggested that a good start would be to determine how many copies of NQA-3 have been sold. This action was assigned to Pete Bussolini.
 - (3) Discuss the feasibility of changing the scope and title of NQA-3 to include low level waste. It was determined that no changes should be made to NQA-3 until endorsement is received from the Department of Energy (DOE).

The rest of the discussion prior to the High Level Work Group agenda was asking questions concerning the Executive Committee's posture on NQA-3; where are we going with NQA standards; and what is the future of proposed standards EQA-1, DOE Order 5700.6C and the NRC Standard Review Plan?

- 3.2 Dick Lowder called the High Level Waste Word Group meeting to order. The agenda had been officially transmitted before the meeting, but extra copies were available for hand out.
- 3.3 The first agenda item was to review and approve the minutes from the October 2, 1990 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. All members present approved the minutes without change.
- 3.4 Bob Clark reported on the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's (OCRWM) position relative to NQA-3. OCRWM's position remains essentially unchanged from the previous meeting in that they see no major flaws in NQA-3 nor any major obstacles in reconciling NQA-3 with the OCRWM QA Program.

OCRWM is presently consolidating thier top level QA program documents into one overall QA program document. During this consolidation effort, any details of NQA-3 which cannot be reasonably accommodated by OCRWM's current QA program, will be identified to the Work Group for resolution by the Work Group Chairman, working with the DOE, NRC and other appropriate Work Group members. OCRWM is aiming to complete thier consolidation effort by August. The goal is to achieve complete OCRWM (and subsequently NRC) endorsement of NQA-3 through this ongoing, coordinated process.

- 3.5 For the next agenda item, Jim Conway provided an update as to the NRC High Level Waste initiatives relative to OCRWM and Savannah River activities. The NRC has drafted a Regulatory Guide DG-3003 titled, "Format and Content for the License Application for High Level Nuclear Waste. Chapter 10 of this document is provided as Attachment 2 to these meeting minutes and discusses the NRC guidance for the quality assurance program. In addition to the Regulatory Guide development, the NRC has been very active in participating and observing both OCRWM and Savannah River activities. A synopsis of NRC activities is provided below. The NRC:
 - (1) Participated in the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTREB) QA panel. At this meeting, the NRC briefed the Board on QA program regulatory requirements.
 - (2) Has been involved in interface meetings with DOE. In particular, the NRC participated in the Midway Valley Readiness Review.
 - (3) Has participated in six (6) DOE workshops.

- (4) Has been involved in oversight of the OCFWM QA program by observing audits and surveillances of Headquarters, Yucca Mountain Project Office and Program Participant activities. This involved six (6) observation audits and five (5) surveillances.
- (5) Has reviewed and commented on thirty-two (32) audits and twelve (12) surveillances.
- (6) Accepted the quality assurance programs of Sandia National Laboratories, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories and USGS in October of 1990. Fenix and Scission of Nevada, Reynolds Engineering and Electrical Company and Holmes and Narver QA programs were accepted with exceptions also in October of 1990. Limited acceptance has been provided to OCFWM for Midway Valley and Calcite Silica activates. SAIC/T&MSS and Los Alamos National Laboratory QA Programs are under review. Raytheon's (which QA program consolidated FSN AND H&N) QA program document, as well as the TRW QA program document have been recently submitted to the NRC for acceptance.
- (7) Has attended three (3) bi-monthly QA meetings.
- (8) Observed the audit of DOE Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (EM) at Savannah River's Defense Waste Process Facility.
- (9) Observed an audit of "The Center", which is the federally funded development and research organization for the NRC.

3.6 Dick Lowder informed the work group on the Total Quality Management (TQM) initiatives being undertaken at the Yucca Mountain Project Office. The Federal Quality Institute (FQI) provided a seminar for approximately thirty (30) DOE YMPO personnel on TQM. The DOE Project Manager, formed a DOE TQM Council. This Council which was formed last year, recently set up a model partnership program with FQI to develop the YMP TQM Program. In follow up to the establishment of the model partnership, meetings with FQI are scheduled for the week of May 20, 1991, to begin jointly building on the YMP TQM initiative. One of the goals of the May 20 meetings is to initiate the development of a vision statement for the total organization. In addition, the council has developed a definition of "Total Quality" as applied to the YMP, and has identified the key issues DOE's goal is to put TQM initiatives in place for the critical project activities. The prime examples of TQM in action thus far on the YMP have been the highly successful QA workshops and Records Management focus groups.

- 3.7 Sam Horton provided an overview of the proposed YMP root cause determination methodology for significant condition adverse to quality. In response to an NRC concern relative to determination of root cause, efforts are underway to provide training to OCRWM as well as its program participants. The training objectives consist of:
- (1) Defining root cause.
 - (2) Identifying the source requirements for root cause.
 - (3) Determining who is responsible for performing root cause determination.
 - (4) Establishing a common threshold for significant conditions adverse to quality.
 - (5) Understanding the tools provided by which to execute a root cause determination.
- 3.8 Due to the absence of two members, no update was provided for the Waste Isolation Pilot Project status nor the Hanford, Washington site QA initiatives.
- 3.9 In the area of new membership, it was noted that the West Valley Demonstration Project had expressed an interest in joining the group. Representation on the part of West Valley or other High Level Waste producers will be sought by R. Lowder. It was also noted, that due to increased involvement and interest in the YMP QA workshops by the scientific community, considerations should be given in recruiting technical personnel. The action to recruit potential new membership from this source was assigned to Tom Colandrea.
- 3.10 In the area of new business, as stated in section 3.4, the Work Group will work with OCRWM QA in resolving any exceptions or clarifications identified by OCRWM to NQA-3. It is the Work Group's goal to receive full endorsement of NQA-3 by OCRWM. A mechanism of proper interface and communication channels will be developed to work closely on a continuing basis with DOE and the NRC to ensure timely response and resolution of all questions.
- 3.11 It was announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full subcommittee will be October 1-4, 1991 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The High Level Waste Work Group meeting was adjourned without further discussions.

HIGH LEVEL WASTE WORK GROUP MEETING
APRIL 23, 1991

AGENDA

1:00 p.m.	Review/Approval of minutes from October 2, 1990 meeting	All
1:15 p.m.	Review of OCRWM NQA-3 endorsement issues and plans for resolutions	Bob Clark
2:00 p.m.	NRC HLW Initiatives (OCRWM, Savannah River, etc.)	Jim Conway
2:30 p.m.	BREAK	
2:45 p.m.	Yucca Mountain Project Total Quality Management Program (Federal Quality Institute partnership, QA Workshops, etc.)	Dick Lowder
3:15 p.m.	Yucca Mountain Project root cause analysis innovations	Sam Horton
3:45 p.m.	WIPP Project status (NQA-1/EPA QA approach, etc.)	Tommy Miller
4:00 p.m.	Hanford QA initiatives	Frank Hood
4:15 p.m.	New member needs	All
4:30 p.m.	New business	All
5:00 p.m.	ADJOURN	

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

This chapter should describe the quality assurance (QA) programs to be established and executed for various activities associated with the geologic repository to meet the requirements of Subpart G to 10 CFR Part 60.

The structures, systems, and components important to safety for which the QA programs apply should be identified, and the analyses used for this identification should be described or referenced from Section 4.2 of the SAR. The barriers important to waste isolation falling under the QA programs should be identified, and the evaluations used to identify these barriers should be described or referenced. The above items and descriptions should be incorporated into the 10 CFR Part 60, Subpart G, QA programs for site characterization, design and construction, and operations.

The quality activities list, or Q-List, which lists major site characterization, design and construction, operation, and performance confirmation activities under the respective QA program, should be provided. The list developed for the GROA in Chapter 4 may be referenced with any additional information provided here.

This chapter should also describe the QA program to assure compliance with those aspects of 10 CFR 60.131(a) that apply to items (e.g., protection of worker health and safety) other than those important to safety or waste isolation as defined in 10 CFR Part 60.

Assessment of activities during site characterization and their compliance with QA program requirements should also be described.

10.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAMS

10.1.1 QA Program for Site Characterization

This section should describe the QA program that has been applied to activities affecting quality during site characterization of the geologic repository. The description of the QA program should, at a minimum, address each of the applicable criteria of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 in sufficient detail to satisfy the criteria contained in the USNRC "Review Plan for

High-Level Waste Repository Quality Assurance Program Descriptions," Revision 2, dated March 1989.*

A general listing by activity of existing data that has not been gathered under a 10 CFR Part 60, Subpart G, QA program and requires qualification for use in licensing should also be provided in this section.

10.1.2 QA Program for Design and Construction

This section should describe the QA program that will be applied to the structures, systems, and components important to safety and to the engineered and natural barriers important to waste isolation during the design and construction of the geologic repository. Particular areas (e.g., IV-Procurement Document Control) in the QA program for site characterization may be referenced in the QA program for design and construction when specific requirements in these areas are identical to both QA programs. For those activities applicable only to the design and construction phase, a level of detail similar to the description contained in Section 10.1.1 should be used to enable the NRC staff to determine whether and how all the applicable requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 will be satisfied.

10.1.3 QA Program for Performance Confirmation

This section should describe a QA program that will be established and implemented for quality affecting activities associated with the performance confirmation program of the geologic repository.

Particular areas (e.g., XI-Test Control) in the QA programs for site characterization or design and construction may be referenced in the QA program for performance confirmation when specific requirements in these areas are identical in the respective QA programs. For those activities applicable only to the performance confirmation program, a level of detail similar to the description contained in Section 10.1.1 should be used to enable the NRC staff to determine whether and how all the applicable requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part Part 50 will be satisfied.

*This document is available for inspection or copying for a fee from the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC, under Accession Number 8903240188.

10.1.4 QA Program for Operations, Permanent Closure, Decontamination, and Decommissioning

This section should describe a QA program that will be established and implemented for quality affecting activities associated with the operations, permanent closure, decontamination, and decommissioning phases of a geologic repository.

Particular areas (e.g., X-Inspection) in the QA programs for site characterization or design and construction may be referenced in the QA program for operations, permanent closure, decontamination, and decommissioning when specific requirements in these areas are identical in the respective programs. For those activities applicable only to the operations, permanent closure, decontamination, and decommissioning phases, a level of detail similar to the description contained in Section 10.1.1 should be used to enable the NRC staff to determine whether and how all the applicable requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 will be satisfied.

10.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QA PROGRAM FOR SITE CHARACTERIZATION

This section should describe how the completed and ongoing quality-affecting activities at the time of the license application were determined (e.g., by audits and surveillances) to comply with the QA program requirements for site characterization described in Section 10.1.1 in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to determine whether and how all the applicable requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 were satisfied.