



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 4, 1997

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Director
for Program Management and Integration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, RW 30
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 1996, QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT MEETING

Dear Mr. Milner:

Enclosed are the minutes of the October 23, 1996, quarterly management meeting between the staff of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Major topics of discussion included an update of the Program Plan and Budget, the legislative process, an update on Office of Waste Acceptance and Storage and Transportation (OWAST) activities, and regulatory and licensing issues and topics. The meeting was a video conference between DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, DOE office in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the State of Nevada; Nye County, Nevada; Nuclear Energy Institute; United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB); General Accounting Office (GAO); and DOE contractors.

Two areas were specifically raised by NRC to reinforce their importance to DOE management. First, senior DOE management should pay attention to issues of harassment and intimidation in the workplace. DOE indicated that such issues are taken seriously at the top levels of management. Second, there appears to be an increasing trend in the number of fundamental deficiencies identified in the Quality Assurance (QA) Program. The appearance is that DOE is relying on the overall QA program to catch problems rather than the line management noting and correcting the problems. DOE indicated that the consolidation of the QA program would allow better focus and reduced deficiencies. Both NRC and DOE management indicated that top management will remain focused on and re-emphasize the importance of QA.

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R. Milner

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sandra L. Wastler of my staff. Ms. Wastler can be reached at (301) 415-6724.

Sincerely,

John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment and HLW
Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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