

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION Building 205
9700 SOUTH CASS AVENUE, ARGONNE, ILLINOIS 60439-4837

July 12, 1990

TO: Charlotte Abrams

ACNW

FROM: M. J. Steindler

ACNW

SUBJECT: Potential Questions Regarding QA in the High Level Waste (HLW) Program

I gather that some questions regarding QA in the HLW program are appropriate to forward to Bob Browning so that he can be prepared to discuss them when we meet with him. I submit the following, subject to approval by Dade.

1. What aspects of the quality of experimental results (including calculational) are specifically benefited by the rigorous application of NRC-defined QA?
2. Has the staff identified the root causes of difficulties encountered by DOE in obtaining satisfactory QA ratings when subjected to NRC audits? What progress in resolving these difficulties and any identified root causes has been made by DOE?
3. Has the QA program of the CNWRA been audited and approved, and has it been implemented in experimental/calculational activities? What relationship does the QA program of the CNWRA have with that of DOE in extent, effectiveness and attributable cost?
4. A major and ongoing criticism of the QA program is best described by the phrase "...the process seems more important and extensive than the product." Further, the apparent need for extensive and expensive paperwork increases the further one gets from the actual experimenter or technologist. What has the staff done to examine this issue and, if found to be a correct description, to alleviate the burden? If actions were taken by the staff, what were the results?
5. Does the NRC staff believe the DOE QA structure and its implementation protocol is excessively cumbersome and/or not efficient? If so, what has the staff suggested to DOE to improve the QA program and its implementation?



Martin J. Steindler, Director
Chemical Technology Division

MJS:mo

cc: Dr. Dade Moeller, Chairman ACNW
Prof. W. Hinze, Member ACNW
Richard Major, ACNW
MJS File

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