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Mr. Robert R. Loux, Executive Director
Agency for Nuclear Project Office
Capital Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Mr. Loux,

On November 7, 1989, the State of Nevada formally transmitted revisions to the State of Nevada Agency for Nuclear Project/Nuclear Waste Project Office Quality Assurance Program (NWPO QA Programs), Revision 2, for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review. As a result of the NRC staff review, nine comments were generated and discussed and satisfactorily resolved between representatives of the State of Nevada and NRC staff at a December 14, 1989 meeting held in NRC Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland. As a result of the December 14, 1989 meeting, the responses to the NRC staff comments were incorporated into the respective NWPO QA Program pages and submitted for NRC staff review on January 9, 1990.

The NRC staff reviewed revisions to the NWPO QA Program which included editorial changes, clarifications to reflect the current implementation of the NWPO QA Program, and changes to eliminate redundancy. The revisions to the NWPO QA Program were mainly in the areas of Procurement (Section 4), Inspection (Section 10), and Audits (Section 18). The Procurement Section was revised to better clarify how procurements are accomplished, and surveillances were moved from Section 10 (Inspection) into Section 18 (Audits) to clarify that surveillances augment the audit schedule. "Control of Measuring and Test Equipment" in Section 12 was changed to, "Control and Calibration of Measuring Equipment" since there are no activities performed that meet the definition of testing in ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1986. The other revision changed "Quality Assurance Manual" to "Quality Assurance Program" in order to reflect that the overall quality assurance program consists of the plan and implementing quality assurance and technical procedures, instead of a quality assurance program, quality assurance procedures, and technical procedures. The aforementioned revisions were not significant enough to necessitate a revision to the NRC Acceptance Evaluation and consequently, a supplement to the Acceptance Evaluation has not been written.

The NRC staff has determined that the revisions to the NWPO QA Program do not change the conclusions stated in the NRC staff's July 14, 1989 NRC Acceptance Evaluation of the State of Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects/Nuclear Project Office Quality Assurance Manual. Based on its review of the revisions to the NWPO QA Program, the NRC staff concludes that the NWPO QA Program contains sufficient requirements and planned and systematic controls to address each of the appropriate criteria of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 in an acceptable manner for the type of activities the State of Nevada will be involved in.

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Again, it should be noted, however, that the NRC staff does not intend to perform inspections, audits, or observations for the NWPO QA Program. Our review was limited to determining whether the NWPO QA Program and revisions thereto, contain adequate requirements and controls to address the appropriate criteria of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 and serve as a framework to develop specific policies, plans, and procedures to implement the NWPO QA Program for the type of activities the State of Nevada will be conducting. The NRC staff review of the NWPO QA Program revisions does not imply any NRC staff opinion on the overall NWPO QA Program, including its implementation.

Accordingly, the NRC staff finds the November 7, 1989 and January 9, 1990 revisions to the NWPO QA Program acceptable. A copy of this letter should be included with each controlled copy of the NWPO QA Program, Revision 2. One copy should be resubmitted to NRC. Should you have any questions on our review, please contact Bill Belke of my staff on (301) 492-0445.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management

cc: S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada

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