

DEC 26 1991

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
OFFICE (YMPO)

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-02 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-91-I-01 of YMPO conducted at Las Vegas, Nevada from October 28 - November 1, 1991. The NRC staff evaluated the DOE/OQA QA audit to gain confidence that YMPO is properly implementing the requirements of its QA program. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the DOE/OQA audit process and the YMPO QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and YMPO and contractor personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and YMPO documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/OQA Audit No. YMP-91-I-01 was useful and effective. The audit was well organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. The audit team did not include any technical specialists. Some technical areas were audited for compliance to procedural controls (i.e., design and scientific investigation), but no evaluation was made of the technical adequacy of work products.

The NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/OQA audit team findings that the YMPO QA program has adequate procedural controls in place, and program implementation is adequate in nine of the thirteen areas audited. The other four areas were considered indeterminate due to a lack of quality affecting activities being conducted in these areas.

DOE should monitor the YMPO program to ensure that the seven preliminary deficiencies identified during this audit are corrected in a timely manner and future implementation is carried out in an effective manner. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audit at a later date to assess the YMPO QA program.

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call John Buckley on (301)504-2513/FTS964-2513.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: C. Gertz, DOE/OCRWM
R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
C. Thistlethwaite, Inyo County, CA
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
D. Weigel, GAO
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
D. Sperry, White Pine County, NV

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Mr. John P. Roberts

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jim Conway on (301)/FTS 492-0453.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Holonich, Director
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Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
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OFC :HLPD	:HLPD	:HLPD	:	:	:
NAME: JConway/dh	:KHooks	:JHolonich	:	:	:
Date: 12/11/91	:12/11/91	:12/15/91	:	:	:

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