

R. STEIN LETTER

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MAR 23 1989

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
Office of Systems Integration and Regulation
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy RW-24
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

In a telephone conference call involving DOE, the State of Nevada, and NRC on Tuesday, March 14, 1989, DOE indicated that at least several of the upcoming QA program qualification audits would not be examining any technical products because none will have been produced at the time of the audit. The staff plans to observe these limited scope audits and give early feedback to DOE through its audit observation reports. However, as we indicated in our presentation in the meeting of January 25, 1989, a fully acceptable audit must include "selected technical products." As a result, we will be unable to issue a letter accepting the QA program for the organization being audited until another audit is conducted which examines the implementation of the program into technical products such as designs, test procedures, drawings, etc. The schedule for these follow-up audits can be discussed in upcoming QA status meetings.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact the QA project manager, Brian Thomas, on (301) 492-0435 or FTS 492-0435.

Sincerely,

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

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- C. Gertz, DOE/Nevada
- K. Turner, GAO

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