

8/89 QPR TO DOE

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OCT 02 1989

Mr. Sam Rousso, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Rousso:

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PRE-LICENSING
PHASE OF THE CIVILIAN HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

Enclosed for your information is a copy of SECY-89-37B, the "Quarterly Progress Report on the Pre-Licensing Phase of the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Civilian High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Program." This report covers the period from May through July 1989.

Previous quarterly progress reports have noted the ongoing concern in regard to the need for more timely and focused interactions between the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's staff and DOE. I believe the technical interactions meeting held on July 26, 1989 proved to be a significant milestone in our joint efforts to improve interactions at the staff level. During this meeting, our respective staffs identified and established schedules for 16 technical interactions needed through the end of this year. It is my understanding that the staff and DOE plan to meet again in the near future to assess the progress and benefit of these interactions.

One area where the staff still has concerns is in the early implementation of a quality assurance (QA) program. There have been a number of slips in the schedule for qualifying programs that was originally established in January 1989. This schedule was revised in July 1989 and some of the new milestones have also been missed. In some cases, it appears that these slips were prudent. Nevertheless, these slips underscore the importance of establishing achievable schedules, especially in the area of QA.

Sincerely,

Original signed by *G. A. Arlotto*

for
Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards.

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
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