

LLL AUDIT REPORT

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NOV 25 1988

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

Dear Mr. Stein:

From October 24, 1988 through October 28, 1988, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated as observers on the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) audit (No. 88-05) of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLL). The purpose of this observation was to evaluate the YMPO audit so that the NRC staff could gain confidence that DOE and its contractors are properly reviewing and implementing their quality assurance (QA) programs. The NRC staff based its conclusions on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., the audit plan and checklist). The purpose of this letter is to transmit the observation audit report.

Based on its observations and reviews, the staff has determined that the DOE/YMPO team performed an acceptable audit. The DOE/YMPO team found numerous individual and systematic deficiencies with the LLL QA program. The enclosed report contains detailed staff observations.

Although the staff has determined that there was an acceptable audit, it is concerned with the number and type of findings on the LLL program. Some of the more significant findings include: (1) the lack of an effective training program; (2) the fact that corrective actions are not being performed in a timely and effective manner; (3) the lack of an effective records management system; (4) no procedure to control interfaces between LLL and other program participants; and (5) the need for LLL to reevaluate the QA level assignments for its technical work. The above findings indicate that the LLL QA program is not being satisfactorily implemented. Therefore, DOE needs to ensure that LLL responds to the audit team findings in a manner that ensures complete and proper implementation.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Joe Holonich on (301) 492-3403 or FTS 492-3403.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc: C. Gertz, DOE
R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada
L. Barrett, DOE
K. Turner, GAO

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