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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DISTRIBUTION  
FROM: SUSAN ZIMMERMAN SWZ  
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DATE: DECEMBER 1, 1988  
SUBJECT: STATE OF NEVADA NWPO OBSERVATIONS OF THE DOE/YMPO QA  
AUDIT OF HOLMES & NARVER, NOVEMBER 1-4, 1988

The purpose of this memo is to relate the State of Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office observations and concerns regarding the DOE/YMPO Quality Assurance audit of Holmes & Narver on November 1-4, 1988.

Comments on the Audit Process

Having a much smaller audit team and not having access restrictions due to security requirements made this audit much smoother. The audit team members did an adequate job. The backgrounds of the team members were also appropriate.

Comments on the H&N QA Program

The audit focused on the Title I ESF activities. The results of the audit did not give a good impression of the adequacy of the design control process on the Title I activities by Holmes & Narver. The majority of the findings and observations were in Criteria 3, Design Control. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the QA organization at H&N played only a minor role in the design process, especially in the area of review and approval. H&N appeared to believe that the Title I activities were not critical activities to the program, but more of a preliminary selection process for the "real work" of Title II.

Other problem areas include position descriptions and indoctrination/training programs. The H&N position descriptions

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were not specific to the Yucca Mountain project; therefore, the actual activities of the staff did not match the position descriptions. The indoctrination/training programs were inadequate. H&N uses the SAIC film on NVO-196-17 as the indoctrination/training film for their QA program. H&N also does not have a mechanism for training to procedures at initial issuance or revisions to these procedures. The H&N Las Vegas office does not have any control over the training of the staff at the Test Site who perform some of the work, including Quality Level 1 work. This is totally unacceptable.

The audit team found the H&N program to be marginally effective. The State "marginally" agrees with this determination, but only with the understanding that H&N needs to accomplish some major strengthening in many areas before being allowed to begin Title II activities.