

LETTER TO STEIN 12/& LINEHAN

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DEC 30 1988

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

Dear Mr. Stein:

On December 13, 1988 the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) forwarded Revision 2 of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigation "Quality Assurance Plan" (hereafter the 88-9 QA Plan) for the Yucca Mountain project, for U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and acceptance.

The NRC staff's evaluation is contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation Supplement (SES). As noted in the conclusion of the SES, the staff finds that the 88-9 QA Plan, Revision 2 meets the applicable criteria of Subpart G to 10 CFR Part 60 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, and the plan is fully acceptable.

Changes may be made to the 88-9 QA Plan if they do not downgrade DOE commitments previously accepted by NRC. Changes that downgrade the program commitments should be submitted to NRC. Of particular interest to the staff is the extent of the quality assurance (QA) organizations' involvement in executing QA functions. The level of involvement now prescribed by the 88-9 QA Plan is greater than that required by the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance Requirements (QAR) document. Before DOE conforms the 88-9 QA Plan to the QAR, the staff requests that DOE describe which QA functions are being transferred to the line organization, how independence of persons or organizations performing QA functions will be maintained, and how the QA organization will effectively oversee the line organization's implementation of the program.

A copy of this letter and the SES, along with the staff's Safety Evaluation, should be included with each controlled copy of the 88-9 QA Plan, Revision 2. One copy should be resubmitted to NRC. Should you have any questions on our review, please contact Joe Holonich of my staff on (301) 492-3403.

Sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc: L. Barrett, OCRWM
R. Loux, State of Nevada
C. Gertz, DOE/NV
K. Turner, GAO

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RECORD NOTE: QA involvement issue was coordinated with J. Moore and B. Bordenick of OCG and F. Hawkins of NRR.

*See previous concurrence

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