



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

DEC 28 1989

Mr. John Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing & Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

Reference:

- 1) Letter from J. Linehan to R. Stein; dated November 8, 1989:
re: Request for SNL audit and surveillance schedules and
concern over SNL identification of internal QA deficiencies

In your November 8, 1989, letter, (Reference 1), you requested a schedule for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Quality Assurance (QA) audits and surveillances of Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) activities within the next twelve months. According to our current schedules SNL will be audited in July, 1990; the following surveillances will be conducted at SNL during the first half of Fiscal Year 1990:

<u>Schedule for Surveillance</u>	<u>Surveillance Activities/Items</u>
11/27/89 - 12/1/89	Primary Standards Laboratory (Albuquerque, NM) Calibration Services
01/02/90 - 01/05/90	Procurement, Training, Audits, and Surveillance Calibration
01/29/90 - 02/02/90	Software Control
03/19/90 - 03/23/90	Calibration Document Control; Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings
04/02/90 - 04/06/90	Independent Review of Design and Performance Assessment

Surveillances are scheduled six months in advance rather than twelve months in advance because of uncertainties related to potential conflicts over the longer timeframe.

The DOE shares the concern of your staff that the deficiencies identified during the September 11 through 15, 1989 DOE/Yucca

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Mountain Project Office (YMPO) QA audit 89-3 of SNL had not been previously identified by the SNL QA organization. The Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) was aware of this potential problem a couple of months ago, attributed it to the insufficient size of the SNL QA organization, and, at that time, asked SNL to increase its number of QA staff members. SNL has recently hired two new staff members who, at the time of the audit, were becoming familiar with their QA responsibilities. YMPO is working closely with SNL to ensure that they have an adequate number of properly trained QA staff members.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Corinne Macaluso of my staff, at 586-2837.

Sincerely,



Gordon Appel, Chief
Licensing Branch
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
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