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WM Project 11
Docket No. _____
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MEMORANDUM FOR: James E. Kennedy, Section Leader
Operations Branch, HLWM

FROM: James Donnelly
Operations Branch, HLWM

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT TO THE APRIL 15, 1987, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL
LABORATORY PRE-AUDIT TRIP

Distribution:

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In preparation for the NRC's first quality assurance (QA) "mini-audit" of the DOE geologic repository program, a pre-audit trip was held April 15, 1987, at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, New Mexico. LANL has been selected as the first organization to be audited by the NRC. LANL is one of the participating organizations for the Nevada Nuclear Waste Site Investigation (NNWSI) and performs discreet technical work for the proposed Nevada repository site.

The purpose of the pre-audit trip was to gather background information, meet the affected LANL staff, discuss the ground rules for the "mini-audit," and in general, do whatever was necessary to facilitate a well planned and effective NRC audit.

James Kennedy, Section Leader in the HLOB; John Bradbury, Geochemist in the HLTR; and the writer represented the NRC at the pre-audit meeting. The QA managers from DOE's Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR) and the NNWSI project site were in attendance, as well as the QA and technical project managers from LANL. Other technical and QA support staff were present but were not major participants in the meeting.

After the necessary security activities, the meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The major points discussed at the meeting are briefly described below.

- 1) June 8-12, 1987, was tentatively agreed upon as the date of the first NRC "mini-audit".
- 2) The DOE and LANL representatives were informed by NRC that the LANL mineralogy/petrology program would be the area audited and that a comprehensive technical and programmatic audit is being planned.
- 3) LANL questioned the scope of the technical portion of the audit and NRC "findings" on technical issues of a subjective nature (e.g., test method A is better than test method B). It was explained that "findings" of a subjective nature would be written up in the audit report as a "comment" that needs to be addressed in future technical workshops, Appendix 7 visits, or SCP reviews.

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- 4) The LANL QA manager would like to know, as soon as possible, how many audit participants would attend the audit. He needs this information in order that escort personnel can be provided, caucus rooms reserved, and other accommodations can be planned and prepared.
- 5) DOE will provide the NRC with the audit report from the recently conducted (March 30 - April 3, 1987) NNWSI audit of LANL and also a rationale for why the LANL QA program is ready for NRC auditing.
- 6) The NRC staff stated that previous audit findings, identified in the NNWSI audit, would not be restated. However, the NRC may reaudit any area initially audited by NNWSI to ensure the NNWSI audit was comprehensive and that nothing was overlooked.
- 7) The NRC staff stated that it will not audit those areas of the LANL program which DOE/LANL identifies as not meeting the requirements of the 10 CFR 60 Subpart G, QA program.

As a result of the pre-audit meeting several near-term activities and decisions must be carried out by the NRC staff. They are a) what is the role of potential observers attending the audit; b) what requirement documents will be used to prepare the audit checklists; c) will a notification letter be sent to the State of Nevada inviting them to the audit; d) how will the technical and programmatic areas integrate during the planning and conduct of the audit and e) how and in what format will the audit results be reported. These issues must be addressed prior to conducting the audit.

Following the meeting, a tour of the areas and equipment involved in the mineralogy/petrology investigations was provided. The lead technical investigator for mineralogy/petrology lead the tour and was very informative and knowledgeable.

It is felt by the writer that the pre-audit trip was needed and successful. A great deal of information was gained by both sides and many detailed ground rules were discussed. As a result of this pre-audit trip, the audit team will be better prepared, more efficient, and more effective in our upcoming mini-audit. Pre-audit visits should be strongly considered for future NRC audits. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or desire greater detail.

~~Original Signed By:~~

James Donnelly
Operations Branch, HLWM