

FEB 23 1989

Mr. Robert R. Loux, Director
 Agency for Nuclear Projects
 Nuclear Waste Project Office
 State of Nevada
 Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Mr. Loux:

SUBJECT: STATE OBSERVATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT OF NRC'S CENTER FOR
 NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSIS (CNWRA)

This will confirm our telephone discussion on February 16, 1989. You questioned whether a representative of Nevada could observe an internal quality assurance audit being conducted by the CNWRA on February 27-28, 1989. I noted that the NRC staff has no objection in general to Nevada having a representative observe quality assurance audits of the research work the CNWRA is performing for NRC. However, the particular area being audited on February 27-28, 1989 involves CNWRA work to develop our program architecture. This encompasses work interpreted by our Office of General Counsel to involve agency records which are privileged or otherwise exempt from public disclosure. Thus, for this particular audit, it would be inappropriate for any party other than NRC staff to observe the audit. I noted that there will be subsequent audits of the research work being conducted by the Center which Nevada would be welcome to observe. NRC, Nevada, DOE, and the CNWRA are scheduled to meet on March 13 in Las Vegas to discuss among other things the CNWRA's activities as well as an overview of Nevada technical activities. If, after that meeting, you are still interested in having the State observe quality assurance audits of the Center's research activities, we can provide you with the schedule for these audits.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
 Robert E. Browning

Robert E. Browning, Director
 Division of High-Level Waste Management

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