

AUDIT NO. 89-L OF F&amp;S

- 1 -

MAY 18 1989

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

Dear Mr. Stein:

From April 10 through 14, 1989, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated as observers on the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) audit No. 89-1 of Fenix and Scisson (F&S) conducted at Las Vegas, Nevada. The NRC staff evaluated the YMPO audit to gain confidence that DOE and its contractors are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its conclusions on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., the audit plan and checklist). The purpose of this letter is to transmit the observation audit report.

The NRC staff has determined that the overall DOE/YMPO audit No. 89-1 of F&S was meaningful and effective. The audit team was well qualified in the QA and technical disciplines, and their assignments and checklist items were well described in the audit plan. The audit did not address implementation of design activities (i.e. Title II ESF activities had not begun). Accordingly, the staff will need to observe a follow-up surveillance or audit of implementation of the program requirements to determine if F&S has a fully qualified program.

With the exception of a software QA program, the NRC staff in general agrees with the DOE/YMPO audit team findings that F&S has an acceptable QA program for the areas that were audited and has qualified QA and technical personnel that meet the applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B and NNWSI 88-9, Revision 2. The NRC staff will determine the acceptability of a qualified F&S QA program upon a satisfactory surveillance and/or audit of the program during the implementation of Title II design activities.

It should also be noted that this audit did not examine the adequacy of design information and criteria being provided to F&S by DOE/YMPO. These design inputs are being reviewed as part of the Design Acceptability Analysis of the exploratory shaft facility which is still an open item being tracked by the staff.

DOE should review the staff observations and take appropriate action. One of the three staff observations requires a response from DOE which should be provided within 30 days.

8905240436 890518  
PDR WASTE PDC  
WM-11

102.7  
WM-11  
NH16

If you have any questions, please call James Kennedy on FTS 492-3402 or John Gilray on FTS 598-6125.

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: C. Gertz, DOE
- R. Loux, State of Nevada
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- K. Turner, GAO

DISTRIBUTION

- |              |                 |               |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Central File | B.J. Youngblood | R.E. Browning | J. Bunting        |
| LSS          | J. Linehan      | R. Ballard    | On-Site Reps      |
| CNWRA        | NMSS R/F        | HLPD R/F      | J. Conway         |
| LPDR         | ACMW            | PDR           | J. Kennedy        |
|              |                 |               | <i>W. Burke</i>   |
|              |                 |               | <i>K. Hooks</i>   |
|              |                 |               | <i>J. Peschel</i> |

OFC : HLPD	: HLPD	: HLPD	: HLPD	: HLPD	:
NAME: J. Conway/wd: J. Kennedy	: J. Linehan	: B. Thibault	: J. Bunting	:	:
DATE: 04/24/89	: 04/24/89	: 04/24/89	: 04/24/89	: 04/24/89	:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY