

AUG 01 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:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

From June 5 through 9, 1989, members of 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. 89-6 of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) conducted at Livermore, California. The NRC staff evaluated the DOE/YMPO QA audit to gain confidence that DOE and its contractors are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the audit process and the LLNL QA program on direct observation of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and LLNL documents). This letter transmits NRC Observation Audit Report No. 89-4 for the DOE/YMPO QA audit of LLNL.

The NRC staff has determined that, overall, DOE/YMPO Audit No. 89-6 of LLNL was meaningful and effective. The audit team was well qualified in the QA and technical disciplines, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. The audit's coverage of implementation of the LLNL QA program was limited to review and evaluation of LLNL QA and technical procedures and personnel to understand and determine the acceptability of the LLNL QA and technical programs, including the capabilities of the QA and technical staff.

In general, the NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/YMPO audit team findings that LLNL has an acceptable QA program for the areas that were audited, and qualified QA and technical personnel with the exception of the software QA program. The NRC staff will observe future DOE/YMPO QA audits and surveillances to determine if LLNL is continuing to implement its QA program in an acceptable manner.

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Mr. Ralph Stein

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To assist the NRC in its continuing review, the DOE should furnish the NRC staff with its schedule for audits and surveillances of LLNL activities in the next twelve months. The NRC staff will evaluate implementation of the LLNL QA program on an ongoing basis, through observations of DOE audits and surveillances and through its own independent audits of the QA program.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Delligatti on (301) 492-0430.

Sincerely,

*JS*

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

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