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Memorandum for: Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management

From: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. OLR-NNWSI

Subject: NNWSI Site Report for Week of April 30, 1984.

1. I attended, as an observer, the WMPO QA audit of Sandia National Laboratories on May 1-3, 1984. Oraganizationally, Sandia is broken down into a number of Vice Presidencies. Each Vice Presidency is further broken down into Directorates and Departments. Each of these activities is designated by a number thusly:

6000 - Vice Presidency (E. H. Beckner)
6300 - Directorate (R. W. Lynch)
6310 - NNWSI Project Department managed by Tom Hunter.

Additionally there are a number of matrix oraganizations that are independent of, say, the 6000 Vice Presidency but that work for projects within the 6000 organization very much like private contractors.

The Sandia QA organization is rather complicated. The 6000 Vice Presidency has a very active QA department headed by J. T. Henderson, a very competent QA professional. Each of the various matrix organizations has a QA department and there is a Corporation QA department.

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The whole thing gets complicated in that, while the 6000 QA (NNWSI projects) is responsive to 10 CFR 50 App. B and NQA-1, the corporate and Matrix QA organizations are not (mostly defense work). On top of this, corporate QA has told 6000 QA that they may not audit matrix organizations to assess compliance to NNWSI QA standards.

There is, of course, a considerable amount of cooperation between the 6000 QA organization and the corporate and matrix QA departments. However, the situation is far from ideal and is well understood by Henderson (6000 QA) and his group. He is actively working to resolve the problem.

The activities that are directly affected are:

a. Computer code production and validation
b. Rock mechanics and core labs
c. Collection and reduction of weapons related seismic data for input into seismic design of surface and sub-surface facilities.

2. The QA audit team gave particular attention to the Sandia contract with Bechtel (conceptual design, surface facilities) and Parsons Brinkerhoff (conceptual design, underground facilities). Both contracts conform well to established NNWSI procedures and have adequate QA procedures included. Both contracts are new and actual work on conceptual designs has not started, therefore no determination can be made of the quality of work performed

by the two organizations or how well their QA plans will work in practice. Both contracts are multi-million dollar activities and are the largest sub-contracts currently held by Sandia in support of the NNWSI.

3. In Summary, the Sandia 6000 QA organization is vigorous and thoroughly professional. J.T. Henderson, head of 6000 QA, is responsive to the needs of the NNWSI and to the letter and spirit of NQA-1 and 10CFR 50 App.B. There is apparently good cooperation by Tom Hunter and his staff to the QA program developed for the NNWSI at Sandia. The major problem is the present inability of the 6000 QA to enforce NNWSI QA procedures within the Sandia matrix organization. This problem is well understood by Jim Henderson and he is actively working to resolve it.

4. I gave a brief overview of the NRC-WM organization to the Sandia NNWSI staff (6310 Department). This consisted mainly of a description of the 4 branches within WM that deal with the High Level Waste problem and how the branches interact to accomplish the NRC's mission. It was obvious that the Sandia staff has little knowledge of the NRC and how it works. This lack of understanding maybe, in large part, responsible for the sometimes perceived lack of cooperation with the NRC in our need to review the NNWSI program.

5. The Sandia management (Hunter and Lynch) are

anxious to have the proposed presentation by the NRC ELD on the legal aspects of licensing and would welcome a presentation by the Projects Branch and the Policy and Program Control Branch on licensing in general.

Paul Bonsthall

Sr. OLR - NNWSI