

OBSERVATION AUDIT OF FSN

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NOV 27 1990

Mr. Dwight Shelor, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy, RW 30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Shelor:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF FENIX AND SCISSON OF NEVADA

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 90-08 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. 90-07 of Fenix and Scisson of Nevada (FSN) conducted at Las Vegas, Nevada from September 25-28, 1990. The NRC staff evaluated the DOE/YMPO QA audit to gain confidence that DOE and FSN are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the audit process and the FSN QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and FSN documents).

The NRC staff has determined that DOE/YMPO Audit No. 90-07 of FSN was effective for the limited amount of work being conducted under the QA program. The audit was conducted in a professional manner, and the programmatic and technical portions of the audit were generally effective and well integrated. The audit team was well qualified in the QA discipline, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan.

In general, the NRC staff agrees with the preliminary DOE/YMPO audit team finding that the FSN QA program has adequate procedural controls in place for the areas that were audited. NRC technical staff were not included on the NRC observation team due to the limited technical scope of the audit, and thus the NRC staff did not evaluate the technical adequacy of the FSN program.

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Mr. Dwight Shelor

DOE must closely monitor the FSN program to ensure that future implementation is carried out in an adequate manner. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audit at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the FSN QA program.

A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jim Conway on 301/FTS-492-0453.

Sincerely,

John J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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