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RS-NMS-85-009
Communication No. 81

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management
Geotechnical Branch
MS 623-SS
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. Jeff Pohle, Project Officer
Technical Assistance in Hydrogeology - Project B (RS-NMS-85-009)

Re: Nuclear Waste Consultants Quality Assurance Manual

Dear Mr. Pohle:

Enclosed is a final draft of the Nuclear Waste Consultants Quality Assurance (QA) Manual. We have incorporated NRC comments of June 24, 1986 into this manual. Specific comments are addressed further in the following paragraphs:

1. NRC comment on paragraph 1.2 has been addressed by changing the NWC approach to levels of quality assurance. Rather than using a three-level approach, Nuclear Waste Consultants (NWC) will utilize one level with a graded approach, as suggested by NRC. This graded approach will focus more intense documentation on those activities which yield the most important results.
2. NRC comment on paragraph 3.1 has been addressed by providing clarification of the overall management responsibility of the President of NWC and his management surveillance of the operation of the QA program.
3. NRC comment on paragraph 3.3.2 has been addressed by incorporating a requirement for on-going QA surveillance of each task with QA reports required at the mid-point and completion of each task. In addition, NWC will require that subcontractors provide a monthly QA status report.
4. NRC comment on paragraph 4.3 has resulted in the incorporation of a computer software management system requirement for subcontractors.
5. NRC comment on the Appendix 1 QA Task Plan will be addressed by listing procedures in each task plan.

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6. NRC comment on paragraphs 5.2 and 6.0 has been addressed by modifying paragraph 6.0 to require a determination by subcontractors as to how to restore data/analyses to a useable condition.

7. NRC comment on paragraph 6.0 has been addressed by providing further explanation as to the use of QA audits and surveillance as a management tool.

The NWC QA Manual is subject to modification and revision and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Truly yours,
NUCLEAR WASTE CONSULTANTS, INC.

Thomas M. Ivory, Project Manager, for

Thomas M. Ivory

cc: US NRC - Director, NMSS (ATTN PSB)
DWM (ATTN Division Director)
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TMI:lm

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