



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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Mr. B.J. Youngblood
Deputy Director
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reference: Letter from J. Linehan to R. Stein; dated
December 22, 1988; re: Transmittal of Quality
Assurance Review Plan

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

You indicated in the referenced letter that "The HLWM staff intends to continue use of the enclosed Plan for all future submittals of Quality Assurance (QA) program plans." This new position was also reiterated in a January 9, 1989, teleconference between the Department, your staff and the State of Nevada representative. To date, the review and acceptance by NRC of OCRWM and NNWSI QA program documents has used the NRC review plan, Rev. 0, dated June 1984 (as modified through resolution of NRC staff review comments). Currently, all program participants' QA documents are being finalized to be consistent with the NRC accepted OCRWM and NNWSI QA documents. We believe that our progress in developing and implementing "qualified QA programs" would be significantly impacted if the review standard for the program's QA documents was changed at this time. Accordingly, we plan to submit documentation relative to our activities in progress that is consistent with the most recently accepted NNWSI QA Plan (88-9; Rev. 2).

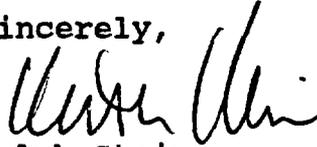
Based on the results of our teleconference on February 10, 1989, we understand that our approach is consistent with the intent of the referenced letter. We agree with your position that where exceptions to elements of Rev. 1 of the review plan have been granted as part of the acceptance process for NNWSI QA Plan (88-9; Rev. 2), there is no need to revisit the exception in evaluation of future submittals of QA documentation. We appreciate your clarification of this point relative to the content of the referenced correspondence.

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Questions regarding this correspondence may be addressed to myself or Gordon Appel of my staff at 586-1462.

Sincerely,



Ralph Stein
Associate Director for Systems
Integration and Regulations
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

J. Linehan, NRC
R. Loux, State of Nevada
S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada
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