

SAFETY EVALUATION 3

- 1 -

MAY 02 1989

Mr. Ralph Stein, Associate Director
Office of Systems Integration and Regulation
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy RW-24
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Stein:

On November 29, 1988, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) forwarded Revision 1 of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Quality Assurance Program Description document (QAPD), for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review and acceptance. Our review conclusions are described in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE). In the SE, the NRC staff concludes that the QAPD meets the requirements of Subpart G of 10 CFR Part 60 and Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, as applicable, with the exception of the modification identified in Section 5 of this evaluation.

The QAPD describes the quality assurance (QA) program, for the DOE OCRWM, which includes the responsibilities for achieving and assuring quality at OCRWM, and the interfaces between OCRWM and the project offices participating in the high-level radioactive waste repository program. The QAPD should not be misconstrued to exclusively satisfy all the QA requirements of a particular program, e.g., transportation, monitored retrievable storage. For the OCRWM QA program, the QAPD is to be used in conjunction with the OCRWM Quality Assurance Requirements (QAR) document.

In the last several years, DOE has prepared repository program documents within OCRWM, such as the Mined Geologic Disposal System Generic Requirements Document (MGDS GRD), which define technical criteria and requirements for the program. They were prepared and issued before the implementation of the Subpart G QA program. DOE should review these documents under the requirements defined in the QAPD and QAR and make revisions where necessary. The NRC staff believes this is particularly important because of the recent experience with the MGDS GRD, where DOE found that a number of Part 60 requirements needed to be added after DOE had issued the document.

DOE may make changes to the QAPD if the changes do not reduce the commitments that DOE previously made, and which NRC previously accepted. Changes that reduce DOE's commitments should be accepted by NRC before implementation. A copy of this letter and SE should be included with each controlled copy of the QAPD. One copy should be resubmitted to NRC.

8905030577 890502
PDR WASTE
WM-1 FDC

405
wm-1
NH16

With the incorporation of the modification identified in Section 5 of this SE, the NRC staff finds the plan fully acceptable. Should you have any questions on our review, please contact Bill Belke of my staff on (301) 492-0445.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- C. Gertz, DOE/Nevada
- K. Turner, GAO

DISTRIBUTION:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Central File | B. J. Youngblood | R. E. Browning | J. Bunting |
| LSS | J. Linehan | R. Ballard | On-Site Reps |
| CNWRA | NMSS R/F | HLPD R/F | J. Kennedy |
| LPDR | ACNW | PDR | B. Belke |
| K. Hooks | J. Conway | | |

** NO LEGAL
OBJECTION
PER. C. CAMERON
TELECON 5/1/89*

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|----------------|---|
| OFC : HLPD | : HLPD | : OGC | : Tech Unit | : HLPD | : DHIA | : |
| NAME: BB | /mac: JKennedy | : STreby | : EK | : JLinehan | : BYoungblood: | |
| DATE: 05/21/89 | : 05/21/89 | : 5/1/89 | : 05/21/89 | : 05/21/89 | : 5/1/89 | : |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY