

JUN 23 1992

Mr. John P. Roberts, Acting Associate Director
for Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Dear Mr. Roberts:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

This letter transmits the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report No. 92-12 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit No. YMP-92-16 of the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)/Technical & Management Support Services (T&MSS) QA program conducted in Las Vegas, Nevada from May 18-22, 1992. The audit scope was limited to six QA program elements and two technical areas evaluated by QA programmatic and technical specialists.

The NRC staff evaluated the audit to gain confidence that DOE/YMQAD and SAIC/T&MSS are properly implementing the requirements of their QA programs. The NRC staff based its evaluation of the audit process and the SAIC/T&MSS QA program on direct observations of the auditors, discussions with the audit team and SAIC personnel, and reviews of the pertinent audit information (e.g., audit plan, checklists, and SAIC/T&MSS documents).

The NRC staff has determined that Audit No. YMP-92-16 was useful and effective considering the limited amount of quality-affecting work available to be audited. The audit was well organized and conducted in a professional manner with minimal logistic delays. The audit team was well prepared and its checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. Some technical areas were audited for compliance to procedural controls (e.g., radiological monitoring and meteorology), but no evaluation of the technical work products was made by the NRC staff Observation Team members.

The NRC staff has determined that the audit was effective, and agreed with the DOE/YMQAD audit team that implementation of the SAIC/T&MSS QA program was satisfactory for five of the six QA program elements that were audited. The NRC staff also agreed with the DOE/YMQAD audit team that Criterion 12, "Control of Measuring and Test Equipment," was marginally effective in its implementation. This will not have a significant impact in the overall implementation of Criterion 12. Two preliminary Corrective Action Requests were issued by the DOE/YMQAD audit team, one in the area of calibration, and the other in the area of training. These deficiencies are not significant in terms of the overall QA program and did not affect the quality of any SAIC/T&MSS site characterization activities.

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DOE should continue to monitor the SAIC/T&MSS QA program to ensure that it is implemented adequately. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the SAIC/T&MSS QA program.

A written response to this letter for item 5.10 (b) in the enclosed report is requested. In order to continue to support the NRC staff observations in a timely manner, DOE should provide its response within 60 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please call William Belke on (301) 504-2445.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Kiedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
- C. Thistlethwaite, Inyo County, CA
- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
- R. Williams, Lander County, NV
- P. Goicoechea, Eureka County, NV
- L. Vaughan II, Esmeralda County, NV
- C. Shank, Churchill County, NV

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*See previous concurrence

DFC :HLPD	:HLPD	:HLPD	:HLPD	:HLPD	:
NAME:WBelke*	:KKalman*	:KHooks*	:JHolonich	:	:
Date: 6/17/92	: 6/17/92	: 6/17/92	: 6/22/92	:	:

Mr. John P. Roberts

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NAME:WBelke	:KKalman	:KHooks	:JHolonich	:	:
Date:6/17/92	: 6/17/92	: 6/18/92	: 1/92	:	: