

CNWRA890017/PA SURVEY

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APR 04 1989

Allen Whiting, Director
 Systems Engineering and Integration
 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
 P. O. Box 28510
 6220 Culebra Road
 San Antonio, Texas 78284

Dear Mr. Whiting:

SUBJECT: CNWRA PROGRAM ARCHITECTURE USER SURVEY

Reference: CNWRA/NRC meetings of March 15, 16, and 22, 1989; CNWRA Draft PA and PASS Survey Plan of March 23, 1989 to Mike Lee; CNWRA User-Need Survey Critical Path Schedule of March 24, 1989; CNWRA Draft Questionnaire for User Survey Letter of March 28, 1989; and revised CNWRA Draft Program Architecture description of March 30, 1989 for March 28, 1989 letter.

In our meetings with Wes Patrick of March 15, 16, and 22, 1989, NRC management, specifically R. Browning, approved the Center proceeding with a Program Architecture User Survey. Several conditions for the survey have since been communicated to the Center. These are as follows:

1. The telephone conferencing will not be conducted because of the heavy staff workload related to the Site Characterization Plan Review the week of April 2. Instead, a user questionnaire will be distributed to the selected staff to be completed as soon as time permits but by April 10. These will be provided to the Center as received.
2. The Center has been requested to provide pre-survey briefings on Program Architecture and the survey to the NRC staff involved. Wes Patrick will provide a briefing the afternoon of April 5 and an additional briefing will be provided to the staff on the morning of April 11 prior to initiating the survey.
3. The Center will conduct an exit interview with NRC management to inform them of their findings, resolve any outstanding items and reach agreement on follow-up activities. This interview will be conducted on Friday, April 14 following completion of the survey or on the following Saturday, if necessary.

The user survey plan indicates the formation of an NRC task force. We do not have a task force per se. A number of staff have been identified by NRC management as appropriate to include in the survey in order to obtain the desired information. By necessity, this is a small sampling but is in excess of the 3-5 the Center recommended for a task force. Accordingly, they will not be drawn together as a decision-making body. Mike Lee and I will coordinate the conduct of the survey with the NRC and Center staff. We will also attempt to

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resolve minor or major issues by bringing them to the attention of the proper individual and management. Where technical review is required, we first utilize our support group which consist of the Program Element Managers and members of the Project Directorate. Each Program Element Manager can consult with their associated technical staff as required. However, we try to avoid extensive use of the technical staff because of their heavy workload and our limited resources. Management review, plan approval, or major issue resolution is performed by R. Browning, supported by his Branch Chiefs, representatives of other NMSS Divisions, Research, and Office of General Council, as appropriate. This later group will be formalized to provide a standing group to make the decisions related to processing of uncertainties (recent revision of the Program Architecture Process) and will also be utilized in the review and approval process for the survey. Prepared briefings and focused issues would be presented for their information and action.

The user survey is highly desirable but all efforts should be made not to delay completion of the Program Architecture data base. The planned parallel preparation of the 75 presently identified regulatory requirements for entry into the data base is appropriate and it is our understanding that the user survey should not, therefore, significantly affect the completion of this effort. Also, the elimination of the telephone conferences and minimizing the need for followup to the user survey, and associated modifications, should allow the planned efforts to be completed by the end of May as scheduled.

It is suggested that the following process steps in the survey plan (network chart) be changed. Eliminate step WS330 (Approve, April 7) and include instead a step following WS340 to be the Exit Interview. NRC prebriefings may be included in the network if desired. I suggest that the Status Report, step WS820, be changed to a Final Letter Report.

The comments provided above are considered to be within the present scope of work and do not represent a change in cost or schedule of deliverables. If there are any questions please contact myself, Shirley Fortuna or Mary Mace.

Thank you for your considerations to the above.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Philip Altomare, Program Element Manager
Engineering Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management

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