

May 3, 1995

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MEMORANDUM TO: Michael J. Bell, Chief
Engineering and Geosciences Branch

John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment & Hydrology Branch

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste & Uranium Recovery Projects Branch

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CNWRA TOP-018 FOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPED IN
HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROGRAM

For the past two years the high-level waste (HLW) staff has been debating the appropriate level of quality assurance (QA) to be applied to computer software developed at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) and within HLW. In February 1995 a telecon was held with the CNWRA. During this telecon, the Director, DWM stated that the CNWRA and HLW staff should develop software under a QA program consistent with those implemented by the DOE and program participants. The CNWRA is currently in the process of revising Technical Operating Procedure (TOP)-018 to be consistent with DOE's software quality assurance (SQA) program and NRC guidance presented in NUREG/BR-0167. TOP-018 Rev.4, Change 1, is scheduled for release by the end of May 1995.

As noted above, the HLW staff was also directed to implement a SQA program consistent with the DOE's. To meet this directive, the HLW technical branches have the following options; (1) adopt and implement CNWRA TOP-018, Rev.4, Change 1, or (2) develop an independent SQA program within HLW which is compatible with TOP-018 and consistent with DOE's program.

Since the HLW and CNWRA technical staffs are working as an integrated iterative performance assessment (IPA) team, it would be beneficial to implement the same SQA program. Further, by adopting and implementing CNWRA TOP-018, the technical branches could avoid using staff resources on procedure development. Therefore, unless there are technical concerns, the HLW Technical Assessment Team should begin implementation of CNWRA TOP-018, Rev.4, Change 1 upon it's release.

Prior to implementation, all HLW technical staff members responsible for the development of software will have to be trained by the CNWRA to TOP-018. HLUR will coordinate the training. Please provide a list of staff members to be trained to John Buckley by COB May 12, 1995.

cc: DBrooks
NEisenberg
RWeller
MNataraja

CONTACT: John T. Buckley, NMSS/DWM/HLUR
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