



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUN 16 1989

Mr. J. Linehan, Director
Repository Licensing and Quality
Assurance Project Directorate
Division of High-Level
Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit DOE responses to comments generated by members of the NRC during observation of the DOE/Yucca Mountain Project Audit (No. S89-2) of Fenix & Scisson, conducted during the week of November 7, 1988. At the July 7, 1988, meeting between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Quality Assurance (QA), the DOE committed to provide the NRC with responses to comments in observation audit reports (QA-G-1).

The audit observation report, transmitted by letter dated March 1, 1989, from J. Linehan to R. Stein, did not explicitly identify observations for which a response was required. However, we have reviewed the report and will include the following items in future audits.

- 1) The Lead Technical Specialist will not be selected unless previously involved in at least one audit.
- 2) The Lead Technical Specialist will not be selected unless they have received some form of formal technical specialist training.
- 3) If at all possible Lead Auditors will not be assigned consecutive audit responsibilities.

The issue regarding the use of commercial grade software program, is being addressed separately per Standard Deficiency Report (SDR) #267, which was issued by the audit team. This item is being tracked in the QA deficiency tracking system. F&S is currently revising its software QA plan, which will be submitted to YMP in June 1989. Corrective action to resolve this SDR is scheduled for completion in September 1989.

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Questions should be addressed to me on 586-1462 or to Dwight Shelor of the Office of Quality Assurance on 586-8858.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward P. Appel for".

Gordon Appel, Chief
Licensing Branch

cc: J. Kennedy, NRC
S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV,
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV