

QA MANUAL TRIP REPORT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph O. Bunting, Chief  
Systems Engineering and Evaluation Branch, HLWM  
CNWRA Program Manager

FROM: Mark S. Delligatti, Subelement Manager  
Quality Assurance Subelement, SPAET

SUBJECT: TRIP TO CNWRA (July 17-21, 1988)

This is a report on my trip to San Antonio, TX (July 17, 1988 through July 21, 1988). The purpose of the trip was to provide guidance for completion of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Quality Assurance (QA) Manual to Bruce Mabrito, the CNWRA QA Manager. I discussed all of the mandatory revisions to the CNWRA QA Manual which were identified in your July 19, 1988 letter to John Latz. In addition, we spent one full day reviewing Ms. Nancy Voltura's analysis of the document which discussed the CNWRA's first attempt to resolve her comments on the earlier draft of the CNWRA QA Manual. Mr. Mabrito has assured me that he will continue to work on the resolution of Ms. Voltura's comments with the assistance of SwRI QA staff. The processing of the mandatory changes and completion of the reconsideration of Ms. Voltura's comments should take approximately one more week (until July 29, 1988). After discussion via telephone with Shirley Fortuna, I recommended that Mr. Mabrito should revise the recommended schedule in your July 19 letter to reflect this additional week. This process of direct interaction with the CNWRA staff worked well and I hope to be able to continue to use it as we endeavor to complete the remaining three steps we identified for complete implementation of the CNWRA QA Manual.

I met with Mr. Thomas Mayces of the SwRI QA staff on Wednesday July 20, 1988. He is the SwRI staff member who will probably assist Mr. Mabrito in the coming week. I think that someone like him, with experience and an outlook similar to Ms. Voltura's, can provide valuable assistance to Mr. Mabrito in resolving Ms. Voltura's comments.

On Tuesday July 19, 1988, I met with: Amos Holt, Vice President Nondestructive Evaluation (NDE), Science and Technology Division, SwRI (he has overall QA responsibility); Thomas Trbovich, Manager of QA, SwRI (the "hands-on" manager); and Richard Trijilio, Director of QA and Administration for the NDE Science and Technology Division, SwRI (responsible for the marketing of QA services). These gentlemen expressed concern about what NRC felt the relationship should be between other SwRI QA programs and the CNWRA. They expressed particular concern that NRC might want to prevent internal SwRI review and oversight of the CNWRA. I told them that NRC did not have any concern about these internal

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reviews, as long as they did not adversely effect CNWRA schedules. They explained to me that they were very supportive of the CNWRA and that they supported the stand-alone QA Manual approach. In fact, Mr. Holt was particularly supportive of the idea of keeping each major SwRI activity's QA program separate. He indicated that SwRI's NASA, DOD, and Nuclear Reactor programs are current examples of this approach. He also supports the idea that the CNWRA QA program will totally control all activities carried out for the CNWRA in SwRI facilities. I think that this was a very successful meeting in terms of fostering better understanding of the CNWRA and NRC at SwRI. I invited Mr. Holt to visit with us when he is the Washington area.

I also met briefly (in the Cafeteria) with Norman Abramson. He looks forward to visiting us in White Flint North on his next trip to Washington.

At Mr. Latz's suggestion, I was given a tour of the CNWRA permanent office facility, which is nearing completion. I think that the new offices will serve the CNWRA quite well. Before the tour, my photo was taken for an access badge for the new facility. It will be necessary for you to have this done on your next trip to San Antonio.

In the course of discussing one of Ms Vultura's comments, Mr. Mabrito mentioned to me that he had been having some trouble in creating a system for work orders for consultants who were university professors. He explained that he thought that he would have to get involved with the various universities. I suggested that involving the universities would mean that the universities would have to accept the CNWRA Conflict of Interest (COI) requirements. I recalled discussions in this regard that we had last summer and suggested that a better approach might be to have direct consulting arrangements with the individuals (Shirley Fortuna also thought that this would be a better approach). However, as Shirley suggested, I explained that we might want to discuss this further with appropriate staff in our Division of Contracts and Office of General Counsel.

Finally, I had an opportunity to view the PARC at work. This seems to be an interesting process, but I do have some concern about the involvement of new staff members who are not aware of all the background on important issues. It was quite obvious to me that Dr. Pat Brown was making a valuable contribution to the PARC, but I had to provide him with some important insight into the Transportation issue.

Mark S. Delligatti, Subelement Manger  
Quality Assurance Subelement, SPAET

cc: Mary Mace

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