Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUN 04 1987

Mr. John J. Linehan, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Linehan:

This confirms DOE's invitation to NRC to conduct a mini-audit of the mineralogy/petrology program at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) during the week of June 8, 1987. The arrangements proposed in your letter to me of May 6, 1987 are satisfactory.

Mr. Carl Newton of my staff will represent DOE-HQ as an observer on the audit; Mr. Jim Blaylock of WMPO and Mr. Steve Metta of SAIC will represent the Project Office as observers. We understand that Mr. Carl Johnson from the State of Nevada will observe the audit as well.

The DOE believes that the Los Alamos mineralogy/petrology program is ready for an NRC mini-audit based on the results of the DOE/WMPO audit conducted during the week of March 30, 1987, and the past internal audit conducted by Los Alamos. It is our understanding that the mini-audit will be based on NNWSI Project Quality Assurance Plan, Rev. 4, and the approved Los Alamos Plan as applied to the mineralogy/petrology activities. Three areas to be excluded from the scope of the audit are software QA, records, and field sample control because they do not meet the QA program requirements at this time and corrective actions are already underway.

The NRC report of the mini-audit should be sent to HQ for response with copies to WMPO and LANL. It is also our understanding that the NRC audit report will consist of findings, (NRC concerns having potential impact on public radiological health and safety), deficiencies, (procedural deviations that do not significantly impact public radiological health and safety), open items, (a request for additional information) and observations.

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We understand the audit will also examine technical activities. If the NRC identifies concerns during the audit of the technical activities, those concerns may be objective or subjective in nature. If concerns are objective in nature, e.g., the technical procedure was not satisfactorily implemented or the procedure does not provide sufficient detail that a technically qualified individual could reconstruct the investigation, then those concerns would require a response.

If the NRC audit identifies subjective concerns, e.g., the need for a specific investigation or questions related to the appropriateness of the analytical method, then those concerns would be identified as open items and will be resolved in forums, such as technical workshops or SCP/Study Plan review. We also anticipate that audit deficiencies already reported in the LANL internal audit report and the WMPO audit report will not be re-reported.

Please work with Carl Newton of my staff, with Jim Blaylock of WMPO, and with Paul Guthals of LANL in making the final arrangements for this audit. We look forward to your review of the QA program for LANL's mineralogy/petrology work.

Sincerely,

James P. Knight, Director
Siting, Licensing & Quality
Assurance Division, Office of
Geologic Repositories

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SUBJECT: Letter of Invitation to the NRC to Conduct a Mini-Audit of LANL

FROM: K.G. Sommer, RW-24

TO: J. Blaylock-WMPO, J. Reese-SRPO and P. Saget-BWIP

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