

AUG 4 1992

Mr. Bruce Mabrito, Director  
 Quality Assurance  
 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
 P.O. Drawer 28510  
 6220 Culebra Road  
 San Antonio, TX 78228-0510

Dear Mr. Mabrito:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION OF AUDIT OF CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES

From June 2-5, 1992, members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) quality assurance (QA) staff participated as observers in the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) QA Audit No. CNWRA 92-1 conducted in San Antonio, Texas. The NRC staff evaluated this audit to gain confidence that the CNWRA is effectively implementing the requirements of its QA program. This letter transmits NRC Observation Audit Report No. 92-13 for the CNWRA audit.

The audit, which was performed as part of the CNWRA's regular audit program, was used to evaluate the implementation of QA controls associated with CNWRA programmatic and technical activities. As indicated in the CNWRA Audit Plan, technical activities audited included tasks associated with Geochemistry Research, Geochemical Analog Research, Sorption Modeling Research, Performance Assessment, Engineered Barrier System, Thermohydrology Research, and Geologic Setting. In general, the NRC staff agrees with the audit team's preliminary findings that the CNWRA QA program controls are being adequately implemented in the areas that were evaluated. In addition, the staff believes that the CNWRA audit was thorough and effective.

CNWRA QA personnel should closely monitor the QA program to ensure that future implementation is carried out in an adequate manner. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audit at a later date to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the CNWRA QA program.

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A written response to this letter or the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please call John Buckley on (301) 504-2513.

Sincerely,

*KS*

Kenneth R. Hooks, Section Leader  
Quality Assurance Section  
Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

- cc: R. Loux, State of Nevada
- T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
- C. Gertz, DOE/NV
- S. Bradhurst, Nye County, NV
- M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
- D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
- D. Weigel, GAO
- P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
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- V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
- F. Sperry, White Pine County, NV
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NAME:JBuckley/jh :PBrooks :DDancer :KHooks : :

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Date:07/28/92 :07/28/92 :07/28/92 :08/04/92 : :

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