

Bruce Mabrito, Director
Quality Assurance
Center for Nuclear Waste
Regulatory Analyses
6620 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78284

MAY 18 1988

SUBJECT: QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dear Mr. Mabrito:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of May 9, 1988, I am confirming that we have a meeting of minds regarding Quality Assurance (QA) for research projects begun prior to the implementation of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Quality Assurance (QA) Manual. I am sending this letter to you now, even though the basic comment will be included in NRC's comments on the Project Plan for Seismic/Rock Mechanics Project (Project Plan) because the comment is applicable to all other new projects which may be begun before implementation of the CNWRA QA Manual.

The QA section of this Project Plan lays out a QA procedure which meets the QA requirements of the contract between Southwest Research Institute and NRC. In addition it implies that these procedures are interim, only to be used until the CNWRA QA Manual is in place. While this is not an ideal way to proceed, it allows the CNWRA to commence work on this research project before the CNWRA QA Manual has been implemented. My acceptance of this QA procedure will be contingent upon the mutual understanding between CNWRA and NRC of the following statement on page 33 of the Project Plan.

"The referenced sections of the SwRI NQAPM and the QA provisions identified here form the basis of QA until such time that the Center QA Manual is approved."

It is my understanding that this statement means that the CNWRA will upgrade the QA program for this project to meet the final CNWRA QA Manual requirements. It is my further understanding that any activities which would be covered by the CNWRA QA Manual which take place before the manual is finalized will be reviewed by CNWRA to assure that they meet the quality requirements of the version of the manual that is implemented. If this is not the understanding of CNWRA, please notify me immediately.

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Mark Delligatti, Subelement Manager
Quality Assurance Subelement
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

cc: Mary Mace
Joseph Bunting
Wesley Patrick, CNWRA

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OFC:HLSE : : : : :
NAME: Mark Delligatti : : : : :
DATE: 5/18/88 : : : : :

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