



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Office of Repository Development
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QA: N/A
Project No. WM-00011

AUG 13 2004

OVERNIGHT MAIL

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**REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
(NRC) POLICY REGARDING EARLY REVIEW OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is in the process of reviewing and approving a QA program description that will be in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 63.142. This program will be based on the NRC review criteria of NUREG-1804, Revision 2, Yucca Mountain Review Plan (YMRP) and the commitment documents listed in Section 2.5.1.5 of the YMRP.

It is DOE's intention to submit this program description to the NRC prior to the License Application (LA), as a stand-alone document. In order to implement a 10 CFR 63 compliant QA program as early as possible, the DOE will request the NRC to review and accept the QA program description as soon as is reasonably achievable. Future changes to the QA program description after submittal of the LA would be controlled by a 10 CFR 63.144 compliant change process.

The current schedule indicates that DOE would submit the QA program description by August 2004. We propose a Technical Exchange to discuss the document by the end of September 2004. It is DOE's goal to have the QA program description accepted by the NRC before the LA is submitted.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact David C. Haught at (702) 794-5474 or by e-mail at david_haught@ymp.gov, or Michael L. Ulshafer at (702) 821-8412 or by e-mail at michael_ulshafer@ymp.gov.


Joseph D. Ziegler, Director
Office of License Application & Strategy

OLA&S:DCH-1688

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