

June 5, 2006

Mr. Mark H. Williams, Director
Office of License Application and Strategy
Office of Repository Development
U. S. Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OBSERVATION AUDIT
REPORT NO. OAR-06-04, OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE
MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE, AUDIT OF QUALITY
ASSURANCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AT THE LAWRENCE
LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY, AUDIT OQA-LLNL-06-19.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report (OAR-06-04) of the Department of Energy (DOE) Audit OQA-LLNL-06-19, conducted on May 1-5, 2006, at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California.

The DOE audit team evaluated the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the of the quality assurance (QA) program requirements, applicable to the LLNL activities, that provide data or support for the planned Yucca Mountain Repository License Application. At the conclusion of the audit, the DOE audit team presented its findings at an exit briefing with DOE and LLNL management. Based on the results of its evaluations, the DOE audit team's conclusion was that the overall implementation of the DOE QA program requirements of audited activities was satisfactory. In addition, the DOE audit team found that LLNL satisfactorily and effectively implemented the examined sections of the DOE Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD) document, Revision 16, with one minor exception.

NRC conducted an audit observation of DOE's audit, in accordance with NRC Manual Chapter 2410, "Conduct of Observation Audits." The NRC staff member observed the DOE audit team members performing the audit, and concluded that LLNL had effectively implemented the requirements of DOE's QARD for the sample of activities audited. The NRC staff member also concluded that the DOE audit team planned and performed the audit adequately, and in accordance with the requirements of DOE's QARD.

On January 9, 2006, NRC issued an OAR-05-05, which documented apparent non-compliances with QARD requirements for the calibration of measurement and test equipment and for corrective actions at LLNL. The assessment and follow-up to OAR-05-05 was outside the scope of the DOE audit documented in the enclosed report.

Mark H. Williams

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Written responses to this letter and the enclosed report are not required. The staff will continue to interface with DOE and follow the action that you take to address the issues identified during this audit. If you have any questions, please contact Wilkins Smith, at 301-415-5788.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins, Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Observation Audit Report No. OAR-06-04,
Observation Audit of the U.S. Department
of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management, Office of Quality
Assurance, Audit of Quality Assurance
Program Implementation at the Lawrence
Livermore National Laboratory, Audit
OQA-LLNL-06-19.

cc: See Attached List

Letter to Mark H. Williams from Elmo Collins
cc:

dated: June 5, 2006

A. Kalt, Churchill County, NV	A. Elzeftawy, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
R. Massey, Churchill/Lander County, NV	J. Treichel, Nuclear Waste Task Force
I. Navis, Clark County, NV	W. Briggs, Ross, Dixon & Bell
E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV	R. Murray, DOE/ORD
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L. Marshall, Eureka County, NV	S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
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S. Lynch, State of NV	J. Kennedy, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
P. Guinan, Legislative Counsel Bureau	B. Durham, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
R. Clark, EPA	R. Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe
R. Anderson, NEI	J. Birchim, Yomba Shoshone Tribe

cc: (Continued)

R. McCullum, NEI

S. Kraft, NEI

J. Kessler, EPRI

D. Duncan, USGS

K. Skipper, USGS

W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD

C. Marden, BNFL Inc.

J. Bacocho, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley

P. Thompson, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

T. Kingham, GAO

D. Feehan, GAO

E. Hiruo, Platts Nuclear Publications

G. Hernandez, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

K. Finrock, NV Congressional Delegation

P. Johnson, Citizen Alert

M. Williams, DOE/ORD

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M. Plaster, City of Las Vegas

S. Rayborn, Sen. Reid's Office

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D. Buckner, Ely Shoshone Tribe

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M. Rice, Lincoln County, NV

G. Hellstrom, DOE

S. Joya, Sen. Ensign's Office

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OQA-LLNL-06-19.

cc: See Attached List

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