

December 21, 2007

Mr. William J. Boyle, Director
Regulatory Authority Office
U. S. Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OBSERVATION AUDIT
REPORT OAR-07-03, OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT,
OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT OQA-SNL-07-06 OF THE
INFILTRATION MODEL REPORT

Dear Mr. Boyle:

Enclosed is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report OAR-07-03 regarding the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) audit OQA-SNL-07-06 conducted June 4-18, 2007, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Las Vegas, Nevada. The NRC observers assessed the effectiveness of the audit team and the audit process.

The NRC observers determined that the OQA audit team performed effectively and met the objectives of the audit. However, the NRC observers identified five areas where the objective of the audit may have been better achieved. In accordance with the "Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/OCRWM and NRC/the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Regarding Prelicensing Interactions," five NRC recommendations for these areas are summarized in the enclosed report.

A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required. The staff will continue to interface with DOE and follow the actions the OCRWM Lead Laboratory is taking to address the issues identified during this audit. If you have any questions, please contact Jack Parrott at (702) 794-5047.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Aby Mohseni, 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 OAR-07-03,
Observation Audit of the U.S. Department
of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste
Management, Office of Quality Assurance Audit
OQA-SNL-07-06 of the Infiltration Model Report

cc: See attached list.

Letter to W. Boyle from A. Mohseni dated: December 21, 2007

cc:

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/OCRWM
J. Birchim, Yomba Shoshone Tribe	G. Runkle, DOE/Washington, D.C.
R. Damele, Eureka County, NV	S. Bokhari, DOE/RW
L. Marshall, Eureka County, NV	S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
A. Johnson, Eureka County, NV	D. Curran, Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg, L.L.P.
S. Schubert, Sen. Reid's Office	R. Dyer, DOE/OCRWM
M. Yarbro, Lander County, NV	J. Espinoza, GAO
J. Donnell, DOE/OCRWM	A. Gil, DOE/OCRWM
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV	W. Boyle, DOE/OCRWM
L. Mathias, Mineral County, NV	M. Ulshafer, DOE/OCRWM
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V. Prothro, Cong. Heller's Office	C. Hanlon, DOE/OCRWM
D. Swanson, Nye County, NV	T. Gunter, DOE/OCRWM
M. Simon, White Pine County, NV	A. Benson, DOE/OCRWM
E. Sproat, DOE/OCRWM	N. Hunemuller, DOE/OCRWM
D. Cornwall, NV Congressional Delegation	P. Harrington, OPM&E
T. Story, NV Congressional Delegation	M. Mason, BSC
R. Herbert, NV Sen. Reid's Office	S. Cereghino, BSC
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV	B. Gattoni, Burns & Roe
R. Lambe, NV Congressional Delegation	E. Mueller, Esmeralda County, NV
K. Kirkeby, NV Congressional Delegation	J. Gervers, Clark County, NV
R. Loux, State of NV	D. Beckman, BSC/B&A
S. Frishman, State of NV	J. Raleigh, SNL
S. Lynch, State of NV	J. Kennedy, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
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R. Anderson, NEI	

cc: (Continued)

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S. Kraft, NEI

J. Kessler, EPRI

D. Duncan, USGS

K. Skipper, USGS

W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD

C. Marden, BNFL Inc.

J. Bacooh, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley

P. Thompson, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

J. Egan, Esq.

D. Feehan, GAO

E. Hiruo, Platts Nuclear Publications

G. Hernandez, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

K. Finfrock, NV Congressional Delegation

P. Johnson, Citizen Alert

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J. Williams, DOE/Washington, DC

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M. Plaster, City of Las Vegas

S. Rayborn, Sen. Reid's Office

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J. Brandt, Lander County

R. Holland, Inyo County

B. Sagar, CNWRA

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C. Dahlberg, Fort Independence Indian Tribe

D. Vega, Bishop Paiute Indian Tribe

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J. Leeds, Las Vegas Indian Center

J. C. Saulque, Benton Paiute Indian Tribe

C. Bradley, Kaibab Band of Southern Paiutes

R. Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

L. Tom, Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah

E. Smith, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

D. Buckner, Ely Shoshone Tribe

V. Guzman, Walker River Paiute

D. Eddy, Jr., Colorado River Indian Tribes

M. Boyd, Public Citizen

J. Wells, Western Shoshone National Council

D. Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of NV

I. Zabarte, Western Shoshone National Council

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G. Hellstrom, DOE

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P. Nair, SNL

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E. Bonano, SNL

L. Newman, DOE/OCRWM

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Sincerely,

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cc: See attached list.

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