

August 6, 2009

Mr. Robert Brient, Director  
Quality Assurance  
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189  
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF OBSERVATION OF THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2009 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY  
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2009-1

Dear Mr. Brient:

On June 9-11, 2009, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2009 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2009-1 in San Antonio, Texas. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (observers) observed the CNWRA audit. The objective of this audit was to evaluate the CNWRA QA program to verify that it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The objective of the observers was to evaluate the effectiveness of the audit process and the implementation of the QA program. Enclosed is the NRC observation report.

The auditors identified eight nonconformances with QA program requirements, six of which were corrected during the course of the audit, seven recommendations to improve implementation of the QA program, and one good practice.

The observers determined that the auditors achieved their objective. The audit was effective in verifying compliance with procedural controls in the areas examined and that the CNWRA QA program was being implemented adequately. The observers also determined that the technical adequacy of the work products and procedures used to govern and control work was satisfactory. The observers agreed with the auditors' conclusion that the CNWRA has effectively implemented its QA program.

R. Brient

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If you have any questions, please call Frank Jacobs at (301) 492-3164 or by e-mail at [frank.jacobs@nrc.gov](mailto:frank.jacobs@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Deborah A. DeMarco, NRC Center Deputy  
Program Manager  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year  
2009 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory  
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2009-1

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Deborah A. DeMarco, NRC Center Deputy  
Program Manager  
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