

November 21, 2012

Mr. Fred Hawkins, Principal QA Engineer
Institute Quality Systems, Building 139
Southwest Research Institute
6220 Culebra Road
San Antonio, Texas 78238

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF OBSERVATION OF THE
FISCAL YEAR 2012 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2012-1

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

On August 28-30, 2012, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2012-1 in San Antonio, Texas. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards observed the audit.

The objective of the Audit 2012-1 was to evaluate the CNWRA QA program to determine whether it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The auditors identified two minor nonconformances and 11 recommendations for improvements. The auditors also identified one good practice.

The observers determined that the audit achieved its objectives of evaluating the CNWRA QA program to verify that it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The NRC observers determined that the audit was effective in reviewing, evaluating, and determining risks and the associated compliance with procedural requirements in the areas controlled by QA program requirements. The NRC observers agreed with the auditors' conclusions that the QA program was being effectively implemented and provided adequate controls over quality-affecting activities. Enclosed is the NRC observation report.

F. Hawkins

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Matula at (301)492-3194 or by e-mail at thomas.matula@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Deborah A. DeMarco, NRC Center Deputy
Program Manager
Division of Spent Fuel Alternative Strategies
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year
2012 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2012-1

F. Hawkins

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Matula at (301)492-3194 or by e-mail at thomas.matula@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Deborah A. DeMarco, NRC Center Deputy
Program Manager
Division of Spent Fuel Alternative Strategies
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year
2012 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2012-1

DISTRIBUTION:

SFAS r/f NMSS r/f SFAS Staff CNWRA

ADAMS NO: Package ML12299A338; Memo ML12299A334; Enclosure ML12299A335

OFFICE	SFAS	SFAS	OGC	SFAS	SFAS
NAME	TMatula	KStablein	RBaum via email	LKokajko	DDeMarco
DATE	10/25/12	10/26/12	11/20/12	11/21/12	11/21/12

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY