

March 14, 2016

Dr. Wesley Patrick, Director  
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses  
Southwest Research Institute  
6220 Culebra Road  
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF OBSERVATION OF THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2015 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY  
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2015-1

Dear Dr. Patrick:

On December 15-17, 2015, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2015 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2015-1 in San Antonio, Texas. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (observer) observed the audit.

The observer concluded that the audit process was well-planned, thorough, effective, and performed in a professional manner. The auditors developed and used audit checklists that were comprehensive and effective in providing guidance to the auditors. The CNWRA Audit Team Leader provided ample opportunities for the observer to provide comments and ask questions throughout the audit process. The auditors and observer discussed potential findings with CNWRA management during caucuses, audit debriefs, and at the post-audit meeting.

The observer determined that the audit achieved its objectives of evaluating the CNWRA QA program to verify that it met applicable requirements and was effectively implemented. The observer determined that the audit was effective in reviewing, evaluating, and determining compliance with procedural requirements in the areas controlled by the QA program. The observer agreed with the auditors' conclusion that the QA program was effectively implemented. Enclosed is the NRC observation audit report for CNWRA QA Audit 2015-1.

W. Patrick

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Matula at (301) 415-7083 or by e-mail at: [thomas.matula@nrc.gov](mailto:thomas.matula@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Anthony Hsia, Deputy Director  
Division of Spent Fuel Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year  
2015 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory  
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2015-1

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Anthony Hsia, Deputy Director  
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