

March 6, 2017

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 2016 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2016-1

Dear Dr. Patrick:

On November 29-30 and December 1, 2016, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2016 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2016-1 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 objective of the Audit 2016-1 was to evaluate the CNWRA QA program to determine whether it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The objective of the observer was to evaluate the effectiveness of the audit process and the implementation of the QA program. 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 2016-1.

W. Patrick

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jon Woodfield at (301) 415-8727 or by e-mail at: jon.woodfield@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
2016 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2016-1

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DISTRIBUTION: NMSS r/f CNWRA SMcCubbin ADM

**G:/SFST/TSISQA/INSPECTION REPORTS/Southwest Research Institute/SwRI CNWRA
2016 Audit Observer Report Cover Letter.docx & Enclosure.docx**

ADAMS: ML Package: ML17053B044 Letter: ML17053B085 Enclosure: ML17053B204

OFC	NMSS/DSFM/IOB	E	OGC	E	NMSS/DSFM/IOB	E	NMSS/DSFM	E
NAME	JWoodfield		RBaum NLO via e-mail		PSilva		AHsia	
DATE	2/22/17		2/10/17		3/3/17		3/6/17	

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