



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 19, 2021

Dr. Wesley Patrick, Executive 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 2020 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES
QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2020-1**

Dear Dr. Patrick:

On December 1-3, 2020, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (auditors) conducted the 2020 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) QA Audit 2020-1 in San Antonio, Texas. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (observers) observed the audit.

The objective of the Audit 2020-1 was to evaluate the CNWRA QA program to determine whether it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The objective of the observers was to independently evaluate the effectiveness of the CNWRA's audit process and the implementation of the QA program. The primary 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 observers to provide comments and ask questions throughout the audit process. The auditors and observers discussed potential findings with CNWRA management during caucuses, audit debriefs, and at the post-audit meeting.

The primary 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 primary 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 primary observer agreed with the auditors' conclusion that the QA program was effectively implemented. Enclosed is the NRC observation audit report for CNWRA QA Audit 2020-1.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jon Woodfield at (301) 415-8727 or by e-mail at: jon.woodfield@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Regan', written in a cursive style.

Christopher M. Regan, Deputy Director
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

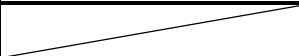
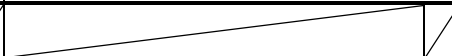
Enclosure:
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year
2020 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Quality Assurance Audit 2020-1

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2020 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE
AUDIT 2020-1

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