



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 5, 1999

Mr. Dwight Shelor, Acting Director
Program Management and Administration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S OBSERVATION AUDIT
REPORT NO. 99-07, "OBSERVATION AUDIT OF THE CIVILIAN
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION
AUDIT OCRWM-ARC-99-015"

Dear Mr. Shelor:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Observation Audit Report No. 99-7 of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division, audit of the implementation of the OCRWM Quality Assurance (QA) Program at the OCRWM Headquarters. The audit, OCRWM-ARC-99-015, was conducted on September 21-23, 1999, in Washington, D.C.

This audit was limited in scope and evaluated the effectiveness of the implementation of the OCRWM QA Program described in the Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD) and its implementing procedures. The specific audit activities observed were support activities and documentation for the following OCRWM Headquarters products: a) the "Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Design Basis Waste Stream for Interim Storage and Repository;" b) the "Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Requirements Document;" and c) the "Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document."

The audit team concluded that the OCRWM QA program had been satisfactorily implemented for the scope of work performed by OCRWM Headquarters. Although the OQA audit team issued no Deficiency Reports, two recommendations were identified. One recommendation addressed the fact that the "Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document" should be referenced in Section 1.C, "Documents Required for Implementation," of the Memorandum of Agreements between the OCRWM and the Department of the Navy. The second recommendation addressed the fact that the OCRWM did not identify or use "Hold Points" and therefore Procedure HLP 2.10, "Hold Points," should be canceled.

As discussed in Section 4.5 of the attached report, the OQA agreed to provide information to the NRC on the qualification status and use of the "Waste Stream Profiles" addressed in the "Design Basis Waste Stream for Interim Storage and Repository" and the "Waste Quantity, Mix and Throughput Study" documents. The NRC staff will review the information provided by DOE and take appropriate follow-up action based on the information received.

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A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required. If you have any questions, please contact Larry L. Campbell of my staff at (301) 415-5000.

Sincerely,



C. William Reamer, Chief
High-Level Waste and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: NRC's Observation Audit Report No. 99-07, "Observation Audit of OCRWM OQA
Division Audit OCRWM-ARC-99-015"

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