

October 17, 2003

Mr. R. Dennis Brown, Director  
Office of Quality Assurance  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U. S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 364629 MS 523  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-8629

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OBSERVATION AUDIT  
REPORT NO. OAR-03-04, "*OBSERVATION AUDIT OF OFFICE OF QUALITY  
ASSURANCE AUDIT OQAP-BSC-03-14 OF BECHTEL SAIC COMPANY, LLC*"

Dear Mr. Brown:

Enclosed is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Observation Audit Report (No. OAR-03-04) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Quality Assurance (OQA), audit OQAP-BSC-03-14, on September 8-19, 2003, at the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC (BSC) facility in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The objectives of this performance-based audit were to assess technical product input integrity relating to selected model and analysis reports associated with the Yucca Mountain Project License Application, and the BSC implementation of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management *Quality Assurance Requirements and Description*, DOE/RW-0333P, Revision 12, regarding control of data. This audit followed up the OQA data verification audit OQAP-BSC-03-05 (conducted in March 2003). In addition, data-related deficiencies not previously addressed or included in Corrective Action Report (CAR) BSC(B)-03-C-107 were reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness of the actions taken. The NRC observers (observers) assessed the effectiveness of the audit team and the audit process in achieving the audit objectives.

The audit team identified 11 potential Deficiency Reports during the audit. The NRC observers determined this audit was effective in determining the adequacy and effectiveness of the BSC program related to technical product input integrity.

The observers agreed with the audit team conclusions, findings, and recommendations presented at the audit exit.

A written response to this letter and the enclosed report is not required; however, a response is requested to the open Audit Observer Inquiry identified in Section 5.2 of the enclosed report.

The staff will continue to interface with DOE and follow the action that BSC is taking to address the issues identified during this audit. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Carter of my staff at (301) 415-6684 or [THC1@nrc.gov](mailto:THC1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Janet Schlueter, Chief  
High-Level Waste Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OBSERVATION AUDIT REPORT OAR-03-04,  
*"OBSERVATION AUDIT OF OFFICE OF QUALITY  
ASSURANCE AUDIT OQAP-BSC-03-14 OF  
BECHTEL SAIC COMPANY, LLC*

cc: See attached list

Letter or Memorandum to D. Brown from J. Schlueter dated: October 17, 2003

cc:

A. Kalt, Churchill County, NV	M. Corradini, NWTRB
R. Massey, Churchill/Lander County, NV	J. Treichel, Nuclear Waste Task Force
I. Navis, Clark County, NV	K. Tilges, Shundahai Network
E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV	M. Chu, DOE/Washington, D.C.
G. McCorkell, Esmeralda County, NV	G. Runkle, DOE/Washington, D.C.
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV	C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
A. Johnson, Eureka County, NV	S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, D.C.
A. Remus, Inyo County, CA	W. J. Arthur, III , DOE/ORD
M. Yarbro, Lander County, NV	R. Dyer, DOE/ORD
S. Hafen, Lincoln County, NV	J. Ziegler, DOE/ORD
M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV	A. Gil, DOE/ORD
L. Mathias, Mineral County, NV	W. Boyle, DOE/ORD
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV	D. Brown, DOE/OCRWM
M. Maher, Nye County, NV	S. Mellington, DOE/ORD
D. Hammermeister, Nye County, NV	C. Hanlon, DOE/ORD
M. Simon, White Pine County, NV	T. Gunter, DOE/ORD
J. Ray, NV Congressional Delegation	C. Newbury, DOE/ORD
B. J. Gerber, NV Congressional Delegation	A. Benson, DOE/ORD
F. Roberson, NV Congressional Delegation	N. Nunemuller, DOE/ORD
T. Story, NV Congressional Delegation	S. Cereghino, BSC
R. Herbert, NV Congressional Delegation	N. Williams, BSC
L. Hunsaker, NV Congressional Delegation	E. Mueller, BSC
S. Joya, NV Congressional Delegation	J. Mitchell, BSC
K. Kirkeby, NV Congressional Delegation	D. Beckman, BSC/B&A
R. Loux, State of NV	M. Voegele, BSC/SAID
S. Frishman, State of NV	M. Mason, BSC
S. Lynch, State of NV	B. Helmer, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
P. Guinan, Legislative Counsel Bureau	R. Boland, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
J. Pegues, City of Las Vegas, NV	J. Birchim, Yomba Shoshone Tribe
M. Murphy, Nye County, NV	R. Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe

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cc: (Continued)

R. Clark, EPA

R. Anderson, NEI

R. McCullum, NEI

S. Kraft, NEI

J. Kessler, EPRI

D. Duncan, USGS

R. Craig, USGS

W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD

L. Lehman, T-Reg, Inc.

S. Echols, Esq

C. Marden, BNFL, Inc.

J. Bacoeh, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the  
Owens Valley

P. Thompson, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

T. Kingham, GAO

D. Feehan, GAO

E. Hiruo, Platts Nuclear Publications

G. Hernandez, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

K. Finrock, NV Congressional Delegation

P. Johnson, Citizen Alert

A. Elzeftawy, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

W. Briggs, Ross, Dixon & Bell

C. Meyers, Moapa Paiute Indian Tribe

R. Wilder, Fort Independence Indian Tribe

D. Vega, Bishop Paiute Indian Tribe

J. Egan, Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, PLLC

J. Leeds, Las Vegas Indian Center

J. C. Saulque, Benton Paiute Indian Tribe

C. Bradley, Kaibab Band of Southern Paiutes

R. Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

L. Tom, Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah

E. Smith, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

D. Buckner, Ely Shoshone Tribe

V. Guzman, Walker River Paiute

D. Eddy, Jr., Colorado River Indian Tribes

H. Jackson, Public Citizen

J. Wells, Western Shoshone National Council

D. Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of NV

I. Zabarte, Western Shoshone National Council

NRC On-Site Representatives

S. Devlin

G. Hudlow

R. Holden, NCAI

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Sincerely,  
**/RA/**

Janet Schlueter, Chief  
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