

August 24, 2007

Mr. Robert Brient, Director
Quality Assurance
Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
6220 Culebra Road, Building 189
San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF OBSERVATION OF THE
FISCAL YEAR 2007 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2007-1

Dear Mr. Brient:

On June 5-8, 2007, Quality Assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Trinity University, and the University of Texas San Antonio (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2007 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2007-1 in San Antonio, Texas. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (observers) observed the CNWRA audit. The objective of this audit was to evaluate the CNWRA QA program to verify that it met applicable requirements and was being effectively implemented. The objective of the observers was to evaluate the effectiveness of the audit process and the implementation of the QA program. Enclosed is the NRC observation report.

The auditors identified four nonconformances with QA program requirements, two of which were corrected during the course of the audit, eight recommendations to improve implementation of the QA Program, and two good practices.

The observers determined that the auditors achieved their objective, the audit was effective in verifying compliance with procedural controls in the areas examined, and the CNWRA QA program procedures was being implemented adequately. The observers also determined that the technical adequacy of the work products and procedures used to govern and control work was satisfactory. The observers agreed with the auditors' conclusions that the CNWRA has effectively implemented its QA Program.

R. Brient

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If you have any questions, please call Thomas Matula at (301) 492-3194 or by e-mail at tom1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Deborah A. DeMarco, Deputy Program Manager
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Staff Observation of the Fiscal Year
2007 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2007-1

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