

March 14, 2016

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 2015 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2015-1

Dear Dr. Patrick:

On December 15-17, 2015, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2015 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2015-1 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 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 2015-1.

W. Patrick

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Matula at (301) 415-7083 or by e-mail at: thomas.matula@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
2015 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2015-1

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