



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

October 27, 1999

DOCKET: 72-1004

LICENSEE: Transnuclear West, Inc.

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT - AMENDMENT TO 10 CFR PART 72
QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

By two July 31, 1998, letters, as supplemented on December 17, 1998, Transnuclear West, Inc. (TN West), requested approval of its revised Quality Assurance (QA) Program for compliance with 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart G, and 10 CFR Part 71, Subpart H. By letter dated July 6, 1999, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff found that TN West's proposed 10 CFR Part 71 QA Program complied with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 71, Subpart H.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this review and evaluation is to determine whether TN West's revised QA Program complies with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart G. Under 10 CFR 72.234(b), TN West must conduct design and fabrication of spent fuel storage casks under a QA Program that meets the Subpart G requirements. The revisions convert VECTRA's currently approved QA Program to the TN West QA Program and includes a provision for the use of third party audits performed by other organizations. These revisions do not involve changes to TN West's Certificate of Compliance (CoC) or to the Technical Specifications.

The QA Program describes the requirements, procedures, and controls that, when properly implemented, comply with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart G, and 10 CFR Part 21, "Reporting of Defects and Noncompliance." The QA Program is well-documented and provides adequate control over activities affecting quality, as well as structures, systems, and components (SSCs) important to safety.

TN West's use of third party audits is limited to assessments performed by the Nuclear Industry Assessment Committee (NIAC). When TN West uses NIAC to perform third party audits, TN West assures that the requirements of 10 CFR 72.154, 72.174, and 72.176 are met.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, the NRC staff concludes that:

1. The structure of the organization and the assignment of responsibility for each activity ensure that designated responsible parties will perform the necessary work to achieve and maintain the specified quality requirements. Conformance to established requirements will be verified by individuals and groups not directly responsible for

performing the work. The organizations responsible for verifying quality report through a management hierarchy that allows the required authority and organizational freedom, including sufficient independence, from influences of costs and schedules.

2. The QA Program is well-documented and provides adequate control over activities affecting quality, as well as SSCs that are important to safety. The QA Program describes a management system and controls that, when properly implemented, will comply with the requirements of Subpart G to 10 CFR Part 72 and 10 CFR Part 21.
3. NRC staff has determined that the proposed revised QA Program meets the requirements of Subpart G of 10 CFR Part 72 and can be implemented for the design, fabrication, modification, assembly, testing, and use of the dry cask storage system.