

June 19, 2008

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 2008 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY  
ANALYSES QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT 2008-1

Dear Mr. Brient:

On April 14-18, 2008, quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) and the University of Texas San Antonio (auditors) conducted the Fiscal Year 2008 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), Geosciences and Engineering Division, QA Audit 2008-1 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 six nonconformances with QA program requirements, five of which were corrected during the course of the audit, nine recommendations to improve implementation of the QA program, and five 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 that the CNWRA QA program 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 Frank Jacobs at (301) 492-3164 or by e-mail at [frank.jacobs@nrc.gov](mailto:frank.jacobs@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Deborah A. DeMarco, Center 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  
2008 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory  
Analyses Quality Assurance Audit 2008-1

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Deborah A. DeMarco, Center Deputy Program Manager  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
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<b>NAME</b>	FJacobs	JRubenstone	MZobler	AMohseni	DDeMarco
<b>DATE</b>	6/4/08	6/17/08	6/13/08	6/17/08	6/19/06

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