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April 30, 1990

Mr. Harry U. Brown
Department of Energy
Office of Emergency Response and Program Analysis
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

Dear Harry:

This letter is written in response to Mr. Weiman's requests of October 31, 1989 and March 8, 1990 concerning organization, management, and scientific approval processes in place at Brookhaven. We have combined questions 1 and 4 since they seemed similar to us.

- 1) What is the internal program approval process for Brookhaven's bioassay program? Are project proposals reviewed internally at Brookhaven? If so, by whom?

The BNL approach to reviewing new proposals begins with the principal investigator and his colleagues. They develop the proposal including the objectives, short- and long-term tasks, expected milestones, and methods of accomplishing the work. The completed proposal is then critiqued by the appropriate group leader and the Division Head. Following this review, it is forwarded to the Department Chairman who approves, modifies or rejects it. Approved proposal then go to the appropriate Associate Director, who has the same options. From then on, it is the DOE approval system.

- 2) What is the process for identifying what needs to be studied?

BNL relies primarily on its scientists and engineers who are eminently qualified in terms of scholastic and research achievement to be aware of both the needs and the ability of BNL to address them. They normally develop the awareness through attendance at scientific meetings, review of scientific and technical literature, program plans at various agencies, and discussions with Program Managers in the Federal Agencies.

- 3) Does Brookhaven makes its own judgment and determine priorities for program study, or do you receive directives from DOE?

DOE, or any other sponsoring agency, has overall program management responsibilities to ensure that the government is spending the taxpayers' money in meeting the congressional mandated need. Brookhaven has the responsibility to ensure that the work is performed within scientific and technical standards and to report their results in the scientific and technical literature. Broadly, DOE determines the overall need. Brookhaven determines the best way to proceed.

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5) Does DOE participate in these reviews?

DOE always reviews the material submitted or reported by BNL regarding MIRSP activities with the MIRSP. This is facilitated by annual meetings of the Nevada DOE staff with the BNL scientists.

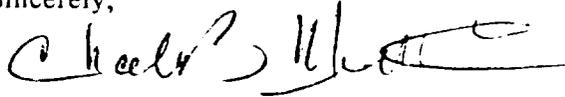
6) Are the bioassay program proposals subject to an Internal Review Board process, or something similar at Brookhaven?

Bioassay programs have been subjected to periodic review by both BNL staff and outside consultants. For example, during the past March BNL convened a panel of recognized experts to review QA aspects of its whole-body counting, contamination-free urine collection protocol, as well as its state-of-the-art FTA method, and interpretation of their latest plutonium results. A draft copy of the report is attached.

In addition, a scientist who is independent of the program acts as the QA officer.

I hope these answers are helpful to Mr. Weiman.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Meinhold
Division Head

CBM/gn

cc: R. Hall
W. Kato
A. Moorthy
C. Sun
J. Rudolph