



Department of Energy

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

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FROM: J. E. SURASH 
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
ACQUISITION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: New Quality Assurance (QA) Clause for Work Affecting
Nuclear Safety

The success of the Office of Environmental Management (EM) depends upon the extent of its products and services to satisfy customer requirements and expectations. By a memorandum dated November 5, 2008, Dr. Inés Triay, as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, approved the issuance and implementation of the *EM Quality Assurance Program* (EM-QA-001, Revision 0, 10/20/2008) (EM-QAP). EM-QA-001 (EM-QAP) adopts the ASME NQA-1-2004 *Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications* and addenda through 2007 as the national consensus standard to facilitate consistent implementation of quality assurance across all of EM's activities and projects. Requirements of the EM QAP are applied in a graded fashion commensurate with the type and importance of work being performed. It is expected that the requirements of DOE O 414.1C "*Quality Assurance*" and 10 CFR 830, Subpart A "*Quality Assurance Requirements*" will be met through implementation of the EM QAP.

The EM QAP focuses on customer requirements and expectations, embraces continuous improvement and ensures work is performed correctly. The EM QAP reflects industry experience and current understanding of the quality assurance requirements for establishing and executing quality assurance programs during siting, design, construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear facilities affecting nuclear safety. In order to implement the EM QAP as a part of the Contractor's Quality Program, the attached Section H clause entitled "Quality Assurance (QA) Work Affecting Nuclear Safety," is required to be included in all new contracts awarded after October 1, 2009, that deal with work affecting nuclear safety.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Howard, Director, Office of Procurement Planning, at (202) 586-8162 or Sandra Waisley, Director, Office of Standards and Quality Assurance, at (202) 586-3087.

Attachment



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QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) FOR WORK AFFECTING NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Contractor shall implement a DOE-approved Quality Assurance Program (QAP) (Deliverable X.X.X.X) in accordance with the EM Quality Assurance Program, EM-QA-001, prior to commencement of work affecting nuclear safety. The EM QAP provides the basis to achieve quality across the EM complex for all mission-related work while providing a consistent approach to Quality Assurance (QA).

EM requires that American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) NQA-1, 2004, *Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications*, and addenda through 2007 be implemented as part of the Contractor's QA Program for work affecting nuclear safety. The required portions of NQA-1 to be implemented include: Introduction, Part I, and as applicable portions of Part II. NQA-1 Parts III and IV are to be used as guidance for the Contractor's QAP and implementing procedures.

Contractors have three options for complying with this contract requirement:

1. Develop and submit for DOE approval a new QAP;
2. Adopt the prior Contractor's DOE-approved QAP; or,
3. Modify the prior Contractor's DOE-approved QAP and submit it for DOE approval.

Development of a new QAP, or adoption of an existing or modified version of a QAP from a prior contractor, does not alter a contractor's legal obligation to comply with 10 CFR 830, other regulations affecting quality assurance (QA) and DOE Order 414.1C.

The Contractor's QAP shall describe the overall implementation of the EM QA requirements and shall be applied to all work performed by the Contractor (e.g., research, design/engineering, construction, operation, budget, mission, safety, and health).

The Contractor shall develop and implement a comprehensive Issues Management System for the identification, assignment of significance category, and processing of nuclear safety-related issues identified within the Contractor's organization. The significance assigned to the issues shall be the basis for all actions taken by the contractor in correcting the issue from initial causal analysis, reviews for reporting to DOE, through completion of Effectiveness Reviews if required based on the seriousness of the issue.

The Contractor shall, at a minimum, annually review and update as appropriate, their QAP. The review and any changes shall be submitted to DOE for approval. Changes shall be approved before implementation by the Contractor.