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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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FROM: Paul T. Prestholt and John W. Gilray  
Sr. On-Site Licensing Representatives

DATE: November 19, 1990

SUBJECT: YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report for the  
week ending November 9, 1990. There is nothing of any particular  
significance in this report.

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cc w/encs.: King Stablein, M/S 4 H 3  
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## Department of Energy

Yucca Mountain Project Office

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WBS 1.2.9

QA: N/A

NOV 13 1990

John W. Bartlett, Director, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management,  
HQ (RW-1) FORS

OFFICE OF GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL (OGD) WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING  
NOVEMBER 9, 1990

### I. CRITICAL ITEM STATUS - YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT

#### A. Site Characterization Planning

##### Midway Valley Trenching

Revision 2.02 of the Midway Valley/Calcite-Silica time-phased Logic Network shows float of +2 days. The critical path now includes the development of Safety and Health Field Operating Instructions and the establishment of Safety and Health facilities.

The initial meeting of the Technical Overview Panel for the Midway Valley Study Plan was held on November 6, 1990, at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The Panel, which is described in the Study Plan, reviewed the preliminary geologic mapping completed by Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and their contractors.

The Readiness Review Notice for the Midway Valley studies will be issued this week.

The Yucca Mountain Project Office (Project Office) management, regulatory, technical, and quality assurance (QA) review of the "Technical Requirements for the Yucca Mountain Project (Midway Valley Trenching and Calcite-Silica Activities)," Revision 1, with emphasis on traceability, is in progress. All comments have been received and resolution of comments has been initiated.

Site Characterization Plan (SCP) Progress Report (FR)

Compilation continued for PR 3. Staff from the OGD/Analysis & Verification Division are assisting the Project Office with preparation of a review draft. A draft PR should be ready for review by Friday, November 9, 1990.

SCP Comments

Draft responses to the State of Nevada comments on Midway Valley and Calcite-Silica Study Plans are ready for Integration Group review.

The Program Review Group Meeting on November 8, 1990, allowed discussion of the U.S. Department of Energy/Headquarters (DOE/HQ) comments on draft responses developed by Project Office and participant technical staff. DOE/HQ comments will be incorporated into the six response packages during final editing.

SCP Study Plan Status:

A draft of Priority Level 3 Study Plan 8.3.1.5.1.2, "Paleoclimate Study: Lake, Playa, and Marsh Deposits," has been received for review by the Project Office.

A revised version of Priority Level 1 Study Plan 8.3.1.5.1.4, "Analysis of the Paleoenvironmental History of the Yucca Mountain Region," that responds to reviewer comments, was received and was sent for reviewer verification.

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STUDY PLAN BREAKDOWN

In Revision After Screening Review . . . . .	1
In Project Office and HQ Review . . . . .	17
Awaiting Comment Resolution Meeting . . . . .	8
Awaiting Author Revision . . . . .	7
In Project Office/HQ Verification Audit. . . . .	5
Verification Complete-Awaiting HQ Sign-off . . . . .	5
Approved and Awaiting Transmittal to NRC . . . . .	2
NRC Acceptance Review . . . . .	10
NRC Acceptance . . . . .	4
Total . . . . .	59

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Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) Alternatives and Calico Hills Risk Benefit Assessment

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Scoring Activities

	<u>Number Completed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Influence Diagrams	20	20
Scoring Activities	612	680

Scoring Activities: 90% Complete

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A schedule was developed for activities leading to completion of the Multi-attribute Utility Analysis (MUA) pilot study during the first week of December 1990. Committee work will be completed during the weeks of December 10-17, 1990, and a report will be made in early January 1991.

A draft of the MUA narrative was submitted to the decision analyst for review. Discussions and revisions this week will finalize the narrative.

Documentation of preliminary results is ongoing. Some review comments have been received on the September 14, 1990, draft materials. A goal has been established for complete documentation of preliminary results by the end of November 1990.

Testing Prioritization Task (TPT)

The Core Team met to plan the activities required to obtain the next level of input to the Phase One prioritization spreadsheet. Input from testing experts and ParaTrac will be obtained.

A record package segment was transferred to the Local Records Center in order to comply with Quality Management Procedure 17-01, Revision 2.

A QA Grading Report was submitted for the TPT Activity.

B. Environmental and Transportation Programs

Environmental Field Programs

A new draft Water Monitoring Plan addressing National Park Service concerns was submitted to the Project Office for review.

A new on-site shelter to house air quality criteria pollutant monitoring equipment was installed.

An analysis and reassessment of the desert tortoise monitoring program was completed. This reassessment resulted in the redesign of one set of tortoise studies.

Vegetation density studies, which were delayed from Fiscal Year (FY) 1990, have been completed.

#### Environmental Compliance and Permitting

On October 26, 1990, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Free Use Permit to the Yucca Mountain Project for the use of sand and gravel. The BLM stipulated five mitigation measures as part of the permit.

#### C. Field Operations

Job Package 90-1, "Borehole Remedial Work," was authorized and approved by the Site Manager for field implementation. The package consisted of three main work activities: Hydrologic and Tracer Test on C-Complex Hole; SNL Seismic Investigation; and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Monitoring Program at USWH-3. The field activity will commence during the week of November 12, 1990, for a duration of approximately six weeks.

The NTS/Yucca Mountain Project on-site Training Program is in its third week of full training indoctrination at the Yucca Mountain Site Office (YMSO). The program is focusing on site orientation, security, NTS badge restrictions, safety, health and hazardous conditions, and the awareness thereof.

The consolidated Field Management network of participant activities (i.e., Technical & Management Support Services [T&MSS], Raytheon Services of Nevada, and Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc., [REECO]) for Planning & Control System (PACS) correlation and implementation were reviewed and finalized this week.

Preparations are underway for staging equipment and vehicles at Area 25 for Midway Valley/Calcite-Silica activities for mid-January 1991. Personnel staffing is also under study now by the Site Manager for stand-by readiness mode at the YMSO commencing mid-January 1991.

The contract for the LM-300 pipe handling system was awarded by the REECO Contracts Department on November 6, 1990, to Lang Exploratory Drilling, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah. Construction of the system, including installation on the LM-300, is expected to be completed by January 21, 1991. Following construction, the

LM-300 drill rig and pipe handling system will undergo a shakedown test near the Lang Exploratory Drilling office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

An examination of all Apache Leap, Arizona, prototype core was conducted by USGS staff.

Project Safety Training for all staff was held on November 7, 1990.

D. Project Planning and Control

The revised SNL Long Range Plan/Integrated Project Schedule (LRP/IPS) input was received. The revised input, which includes internal SNL interfaces and Level 2 milestones which were not provided in SNL's original input, will be incorporated into the LRP/IPS by Monday, November 12, 1990.

Efforts to complete the scheduled integration are continuing. The current target completion date is November 16, 1990.

The Project Office and T&MSS prepared and presented a PACS training program for the Project Office Division Directors and Project Work Breakdown Structure (FWBS) Element Managers. The training focused on PACS planning products.

Detailed project and participant FY 1991 Cost Plans, showing Summary Accounts rolled into Planning and Scheduling Accounts which were rolled into FWBS elements, were produced. These plans were distributed for review in development of the FY 1991 Performance Measurement Baseline.

E. QA Implementation

QA staff participated in a meeting with DOE/HQ personnel to discuss improvements in training methods.

Preparations were completed for the Gold Star Audit of T&MSS, which is scheduled to begin next week.

F. Major Oversight Group Meetings

No oversight group meetings this week.

G. Public Outreach Activities

The project staff made final preparations for the Yucca Mountain Project Public Update Meetings. These meetings were scheduled for Hawthorne, Nevada, on November 7, 1990, and Amargosa Valley, Nevada, on November 8, 1990. Included in this effort were the following activities: Preparation of presentation materials and exhibits; finalization of room arrangements; and coordination of recording and photography of the events. On November 5, 1990, a dress rehearsal for the meetings was held.

A presentation was given by the Project Manager to the Paradise Valley Lions Club on November 6, 1990.

The Acting Deputy Division Director of the Regulatory & Site Evaluation Division spoke at the Active Republican Women's meeting on November 8, 1990, in conjunction with the Nevada Nuclear Waste Study Committee.

H. Near Term Decision Plan

No significant change in milestone status from last Program Management Meeting.

II. ANALYSIS & VERIFICATION DIVISION

A Program Review Group Meeting to discuss draft responses to comments on the SCP was held on November 8, 1990, at the Project Office in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A revised draft of the Yucca Mountain Project Plan, addressing informal RW-10 comments, was prepared for submittal by RW-20 to RW-10 for formal review.

A preliminary draft of the Third Site Characterization PR was written. A working group meeting was held on November 7-8, 1990, at the Project Office in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A briefing to John Bartlett on the site-suitability effort was held on November 8, 1990.

III. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory completed a survey of the degradation modes for nickel-chromium-molybdenum alloys as potential candidates for waste package container materials.

All comments for the Annotated Outline of the Repository Plan have been completed and the review process has been initiated.

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note that the usage of "(P)" in the calendar indicates that the event is open to the public.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>YMPO Contact</u>
<b>A. <u>DOE/BQ Meetings</u></b>			
Wednesday, November 28	Program Management Meeting	Washington, DC	C. Gertz, Project Office
<b>B. <u>Internal Project and DOE/NV meetings</u></b>			
Monday, November 26	Planning & Budget Meeting	Las Vegas, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office
Tuesday, November 27	TPO Meeting	Las Vegas, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office
<b>C. <u>State and Public Interactions (P)</u></b>			
Tuesday, November 13	Western High School	Las Vegas, NV	A. Robison, Project Office
Wednesday, November 14	1990 American Nuclear Society Meeting	Washington, DC	C. Gertz, Project Office
Monday, November 19	Southern Nevada School Adminis- trators	Las Vegas, NV	A. Robison, Project Office
Tuesday, November 20	Public Update Meeting	Henderson, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office
Wednesday, November 21	Casino Center Optimists Club	Las Vegas, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office
Tuesday, December 4	Nevada History Class at UNLV	Las Vegas, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office
Thursday, December 6	Arizona State-wide Meeting of ANS Student Chapters	Tucson, AZ	C. Gertz, Project Office
Wednesday, January 9, 1991	Daughters of the American Revolution	Las Vegas, NV	C. Gertz, Project Office