

# CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES

## TRIP REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Staff Exchange/Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**DATE/PLACE:** March 5-16, 2001

**AUTHOR:** English C. Percy

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**SUBJECT:** Staff Exchange/Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**DATE/PLACE:** March 5-16, 2001  
Rockville, Maryland

**AUTHOR:** English C. Pearcy

### **PERSONS PRESENT:**

The author and NRC Headquarters Staff

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF TRIP:**

This trip was a formal staff exchange between the Center for Nuclear Waste Analyses (CNWRA) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Staff exchanges are established under the CNWRA contract and are implemented according to Administrative Procedure 008. Staff exchanges are conducted when benefits to each organization may be realized. Staff Exchange benefits include providing program and developmental experience, collaboration in technical assistance, providing close coordination in specific activities, using equipment or facilities that may not be available at one of the organizations, and assisting in the transfer and use of technology and approaches for resolving high level nuclear waste (HLW) issues.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

During this trip the author collaborated with Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff to prepare a draft inspection procedure for a subset of licensee activities to be performed during the performance confirmation period envisioned for the HLW repository. This example procedure is limited to the field portion of the licensee in-drift seepage testing and monitoring program. This procedure identifies opportunities for integration and information exchange between inspection team members and HLW technical staff that review licensee submittals [e.g., U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Data and Model Comparison Reports, and other documents required as license conditions, describing licensee activities and interpretations under the performance confirmation plan as may be required]. Integration between the inspection activities and the related reviews conducted by HLW technical staff will be important to target the inspection on those licensee activities of greatest risk and performance significance.

The author also worked with DWM staff to write a portion of the Integrated Issue Resolution Status Report related to the performance confirmation program. This document describes issues related to the performance confirmation program and their importance to repository safety. The status of the current DOE performance confirmation plans is presented along with current information regarding DOE plans to update the program activities.

In addition to writing these two documents, the author participated in numerous formal and informal meetings with DWM staff. These meetings were valuable sources of information on HLW program activities and provided important insights into DWM staff and management priorities.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Staff exchanges continue to provide important benefits to both the CNWRA and the NRC.

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:**

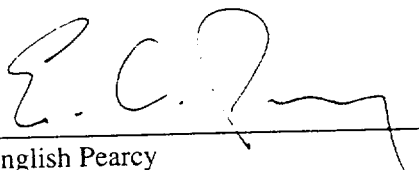
None

**PENDING ACTIONS:**

Finalize the draft inspection procedure and seek management approval to use it as an example to develop others.

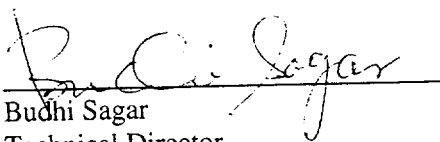
**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Technical and management staff at both the NRC and CNWRA should actively seek opportunities to participate in staff exchanges.

**SIGNATURES:**

English Percy  
Element Manager  
Geohydrology and Geochemistry

3/26/2001  
Date

**CONCURRENCE:**

Budhi Sagar  
Technical Director

3/26/2001  
Date