



Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 98608  
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APR 30 1996

Daniel A. Dreyfus, Director, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, HQ (RW-1)  
FORS

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION OFFICE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK  
ENDING APRIL 26, 1996 (SCPB: N/A)

I. FORECAST OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

The "Waste Package Technical Document" should be completed on April 30, 1996. The "Waste Package Filler Report" should be completed on May 1, 1996.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

No significant items to report.

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

The second quarter, fiscal year 1996, Groundwater Monitoring Report will be submitted to the Nevada State Engineer by May 15, 1996. This document reports groundwater quantity, groundwater withdrawals, and the withdrawals' impact on surrounding aquifers in the Yucca Mountain region.

D. Assistant Manager for Suitability and Licensing

\* A U.S. Department of Energy/U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission management meeting is scheduled for May 8, 1996, in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss current activities, pre-licensing interactions under the revised Program Plan, and the new Environmental Protection Agency standards for Yucca Mountain.

A Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Full Board Meeting is scheduled for April 30-May 1, 1996, in Austin, Texas. The main topic of the meeting is how the new Program Plan will be implemented in the integrated manner.

\*Asterisk indicate those items we suggest for input to the Secretary's Weekly Report.

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APR 30 1996

E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No significant items to report.

F. Office of Public Affairs

The International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference will be held April 29-May 3, 1996, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Staff has organized and will chair four sessions in the public affairs arena.

II. CRITICAL ITEM STATUS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

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The Tunnel Boring Machine progressed to Station 49+76.4 meters or 16,326.7 feet as of 8 a.m., April 29, 1996. The Tunnel Boring Machine resumed operations on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, after the scheduled 1500 hour maintenance inspection had been completed. During this maintenance inspection, the operating systems and structural components of the Tunnel Boring Machine received detailed inspection from a checklist of 40 items. Also included was replacement of some wear surfaces and hardsurface welding of certain portions of the cutterhead. The Tunnel Boring Machine is 1,226 meters or 4,021.3 feet ahead of schedule. In time, this equates to approximately 117 days ahead of schedule. Ground conditions are now Category 1. Other tunnel work accomplished included initiation of excavation for Alcove #6 to Station 0+05.4 and continuation of improvements to the ventilation system. The Alpine miner has advanced to 68.5 meters in the Access/Observation Drift of the Heat Test Alcove.

An all day meeting was held with representatives of the Naval Reactors Branch and Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory at the Bank of America Building, Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 18, 1996. Multi-participants from the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractors were in attendance. Information was exchanged concerning spent fuel types, canisters, waste packages, and repository surface and subsurface designs.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

No critical items to report.

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APR 30 1996

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

No critical items to report.

D. Assistant Manager for Suitability and Licensing

No critical items to report.

E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No critical items to report.

F. Office of Public Affairs

No critical items to report.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

During the 1500 hour Maintenance inspection, 144 wear plates were replaced on the Tunnel Boring Machine cutterhead. The best day of Tunnel Boring Machine excavation this week was Thursday, when 38.2 meters or 124.4 feet were excavated.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

\* The long term pump test of approximately 16 days at G-2 was terminated April 25, 1996, resulting in a fluid level drawdown of approximately 124 feet. The fluid level recovery will now be monitored to evaluate the recovery profile and to investigate if the final recovery level is indicative of perched water effects. A total of approximately 1,372,000 gallons of water were pumped. The testing on this borehole is planned to better define the high water table gradient north of the repository.

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

Submitted the first quarter, calendar year 1996, Underground Injection Control Permit Quarterly Report to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, in accordance with Yucca Mountain Project Underground Injection Control Permit requirements.

Environmental compliance and safety surveillances were conducted at the Yucca Mountain, Nevada, site ensuring compliance with state permit and programmatic requirements.

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APR 30 1996

As recently requested by RW-1, two Mine Safety and Health Administration personnel visited Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project on April 24-26, 1996. Mine Safety & Health Administration personnel performed their assistance review consistent with the 1986 Memorandum of Understanding and indicated they were very impressed with Exploratory Studies Facilities' operations and found "nothing contrary" to their standards.

D. Assistant Manager for Suitability and Licensing

No items to report.

E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No items to report.

F. Office of Public Affairs

\* The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Deputy Project Manager gave an update on Project activities to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on April 26, 1996, discussing the accomplishments from February through April 1996, including Tunnel Boring Machine progress, recent hydrology status, and technical milestone status.

G. Participants

Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Managing & Operating Contractor

\* The Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor held its first Technical Integration Working Group meeting. The group is chaired by the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor Technical Deputy. The secretary is the Regulatory Operations Manager. Standing members of the group are the National Laboratory Leads, the U. S. Geological Survey Lead, the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor Operations Managers and a senior representative from the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor Vienna office. The discussions at the first meeting focused on the Waste Containment and Isolation Strategy. Periodic meetings are contemplated.

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APR 30 1996

- \* At the Manager's Project Review meeting held on April 23, 1996, the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor reported the cost, schedule, deliverable status through March, and discussed issues and projections for the remainder of the fiscal year.

U. S. Geological Survey

No items to report.



Wesley E. Barnes  
Project Manager

AMSL:CH-1637

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APR 30 1996

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