



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 98608
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APR 17 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 12, 1996 (SCPB: N/A)

I. FORECAST OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

- * A Change Request for operating the Tunnel Boring Machine three shifts per day is scheduled for completion this month.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

No significant items to report.

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

The first quarter, calendar year 1996, Underground Injection Control Permit Quarterly Report will be submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, in accordance with Yucca Mountain Project Underground Injection Control Permit requirements by April 22, 1996.

The Second Quarter fiscal year 1996 Groundwater Monitoring Report to the Nevada State Engineer will be submitted by April 30, 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

No significant items to report.

E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No significant items to report.

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

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F. Office of Public Affairs

No significant items to report.

II. CRITICAL ITEM STATUS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

* The Tunnel Boring Machine advanced to Station 48+66.3 meters or 15,961 feet as of 8 a.m., March 15, 1996. The Tunnel Boring Machine is 1,353.8 meters or 4,440 feet ahead of schedule. In time, this equates to approximately 123 days ahead of schedule. Ground conditions varied between Category 4 and Category 1 during the week. A total of 52 steel sets were installed during the week. The Tunnel Boring Machine is currently in ground condition Category 4. Excavation of the Heater Test Alcove has advanced to 53 meters from the centerline of the tunnel.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

No critical items to report.

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

No items to report.

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

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B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

The long-term pump test (10 days+) was initiated at G-2 on May 8, 1996, as planned. The latest test information is consistent with the initial short-term test results. The longer drawdown test will allow project scientists to investigate a much greater distance from the borehole to look for potential boundaries which could be indicative of limited aquifer (perched water) effects influencing the present interpretation of the large hydraulic gradient.

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

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

D. Assistant Manager for Suitability and Licensing

The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office participated in a second dry run/videoconference on April 11, 1996, to prepare for the upcoming Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Spring Full Board meeting to be held April 30-May 1, 1996, in Austin, Texas. The main topic of the meeting is the integration of major activities within the program and the development of priorities used to define tasks and to allocate resources. The meeting will focus on the relationship of the major program pieces and the rationale underlying the relationships.

The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office participated in a teleconference with the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management on April 11, 1996. The topics of discussion were the proposed agenda for the next U.S. Department of Energy/U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Management Meeting, transmittal of a response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Vertical Slice proposal, and possible responses to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's letter concerning the erosion issue.

E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No items to report.

F. Office of Public Affairs

No items to report.

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G. Participants


Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor

The Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor held a half-day Senior Managers' offsite meeting to discuss Improving Customer Relations.

United States Geological Survey

The Seamist borehole liner was successfully installed in Borehole USW SD-7 last week and is collecting pneumatic pressure data.

A 10-day hydraulic test was begun at Borehole USW G-2 to investigate the aquifer in the region of a proposed high hydraulic gradient.


Wesley E. Barnes
Project Manager

AMSL:CLH-1579

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