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**Department of Energy**  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
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May 1, 1997, WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

TO: Lake H. Barrett, DOE/HQ (RW-1)  
FROM: Wesley E. Barnes, DOE/YMSCO  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT

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The following activities are provided as input from the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office for the Program Office Weekly Report.

I. MAJOR EVENTS

On April 25, 1997, excavation of the Exploratory Studies Facility tunnel at the Yucca Mountain site was completed. The Tunnel Boring Machine used to excavate the tunnel "daylighted" at the Exploratory Studies Facility South Portal at 11:40 a.m. PDT.

The CR regarding detailed planning for the Viability Assessment Risk Mitigation is under review. The CR includes planned work required to implement 36 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office identified tasks needed to mitigate risks associated with preparation of the project Viability Assessment. The Viability Assessment is scheduled for completion by the end of fiscal year 1998.

II. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Alcove #5, Thermal Test Facility, all excavation was completed in the week ending April 2, 1997. Completed test holes #64, 67, 68, 88, 89, 132, 135, 138, and started holes #131 and 134.

In Alcove #6, Northern Ghost Dance Fault Alcove, advanced 6.3 meters/20.7 feet to complete the Access Drift and turned the corner into the Drift Alcove. Advanced 14.1 meters/46.3 feet in the Drift Alcove. Trimmed ribs in curve and installed vent line around the curve.

In Alcove #7, Southern Ghost Dance Fault Alcove, advanced 10.7 meters/35.1 feet. Trimmed inverts and repaired the hydraulic stabilizer on the Alpine Miner.

The *Annual Report on Compliance With the Programmatic Agreement on Historical Preservation* was transmitted to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Bureau of Land Management, and Nevada Historic Preservation Offices. This progress report implements stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement for treatment of historical properties subject to effect by Project activities.

The *Quarterly Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit Report* was submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, in accordance with Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project UIC Permit requirements for Safe Drinking Water Act compliance.

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Three tours of Yucca Mountain were coordinated and conducted for 68 guests. These included a tour for 25 guests from Leadership Las Vegas, 26 guests from the Naval Reserve, and a tour for 17 members and guests from the Michigan State Legislature.

Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project staff coordinated and assisted with the JASON VIII project at the Community College of Southern Nevada, April 28-May 9, 1997. The JASON project is made possible in Las Vegas through a unique partnership among governmental agencies, private industry, and the Clark County, Nevada School District. The JASON project uses state-of-the-art technology to allow students around the world to experience scientific discovery as it happens. For this year's project, students are transported live via interactive technologies to two of the Earth's geologically unique locations: Iceland and Yellowstone Park. Scientific activities at these sites focused on geology, biology, environmental science, and social science.

III. ISSUES

No items to report.

IV. COST SUMMARY

No items to report.