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Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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**JULY 10, 1997, WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT**

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

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

**I. MAJOR EVENTS**

The Total System Performance Assessment Peer Review Panel held a public meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 1997, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was attended by two members of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board; representatives from the State of Nevada, Nye and Clark Counties; and members of the public. The peer reviewers summarized their observations to date.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Notice of Availability for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment summary document was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, July 9, 1997. In addition to the Federal Register, public notification occurred in the following ways: the placing of advertisements in six area newspapers; the national distribution of a press release; the placement of electronic versions of EIS-related documents (including the comment summary document, two updated and revised fact sheets, the press release, the Notice of Availability, etc.) on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project's Home Page; and the distribution of materials to reading rooms and stakeholders via a series of mailings. Prior to the release of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, DOE provided advanced notification about the imminent release of the comment summary document to the State of Nevada, the 10 affected units of local government, and the 17 Yucca Mountain, Nevada, area tribes.

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## II. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Developed and provided RW with various scenarios to respond to request from the "Hill" and RW management to support the fiscal year (FY) 1998 and FY 99 budget activities for presentation to Jeanne Wilson and Jim Oxbury for Support Service contractor requirements.

Reviewed and responded to the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor (CRWMS M&O) draft change request (CR) for Enhanced Characterization of the Repository Block (ECRB). Provided letter to M&O requesting they replan the ECRB activity in the CR to achieve a more cost effective approach by relaxing the schedule constraint under which the draft CR was initially planned.

Drilling of approximately 20 boreholes in the Ptn for moisture studies was completed this week in the North Ramp of the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF). Drilling resumed in Niche #1 this week. The purpose of this study and the previous study is to gather data on moisture and moisture travel in the unsaturated zone of the ESF.

The Office of Institutional Affairs' staff coordinated and conducted four tours of Yucca Mountain for 60 guests. These were tours for ABC News, Towers Productions, the University of Georgia, and the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

The Office of Institutional Affairs' staff gave several presentations, including a general Project overview, an educational presentation on lasers, and a Native American Culture presentation to 40 guests of Fort Valley State, Georgia, at the Las Vegas Science Center on July 9, 1997. The staff also prepared a presentation on the Project background and the role of reclamation on the Project and presented it to 50 guests at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Geotechnical Conference in San Bernardino, California.

The Office of Institutional Affairs' staff conducted, in a partnership with the YMCA, a Desert Explorers science program, July 7-11, 1997, at the Las Vegas Science Center for 25 students.

## III. ISSUES

No items to report.

## IV. COST SUMMARY

No items to report.