



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

**JULY 31, 1997, WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT**

TO: Lake H. Barrett, DOE/HQ (RW-1)

FROM: 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**

Drilling of borehole WT-24 began as scheduled on July 23, 1997. The borehole is being drilled to investigate whether the large hydraulic gradient to the North of the site is due to perched water or the regional water table. Activities are focused on installing the surface casing which is cemented into position before initiating further penetration.

Conducted the "rubber room" meeting to evaluate options to develop consensus of the scope and cost of WBS 1.2.6 activities for the East-West Drift. The results will be briefed at the Executive Session of the Directors Program Review. Participants included personnel from the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office, Management & Operating contractor, Management and Technical Support contractor, and the Tunneling Board of Consultants.

Completed review of the M&O change request for Enhanced Characterization of the Repository Block. The Change Request will be conditionally approved to allow the M&O to continue to work design and planning activities prior to obtaining DOE approval for the Tunnel Boring Machine acquisition strategy and actual drift construction.

A Quality Assurance audit review on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office was held during the week of July 28 through August 1, 1997.

**II. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Naval Reactors' personnel met with Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project personnel the week of July 25, 1997. Classified discussions occurred on the afternoon of July 21, 1997, focusing on the classified aspects of Naval Reactor carrier and submarine spent nuclear fuel characteristics pertinent to criticality and criticality control under disposal conditions. A more general discussion was held on July 22, 1997, concerning the factors and issues associated with canister sizes and weights being planned for Naval Reactor fuel storage and transport to a repository.

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The Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety & Health submitted the *Quarterly Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit Report* to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Project UIC Permit requirements for Safe Drinking Water Act compliance.

Five tours of Yucca Mountain, Nevada, were coordinated and conducted for 18 guests. These included tours for Historically Black Colleges and Universities; DOE/Congressional, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs personnel; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; the French Energy Commission; and Direct News Television.

III. ISSUES

No items to report.

IV. COST SUMMARY

No items to report.