



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 98608
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8608
MAY 06 1996

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

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION OFFICE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK
ENDING MAY 3, 1996 (SCPB: N/A)

I. FORECAST OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations

No significant items to report.

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, concerns, and needs.

A U.S. Department of Energy/U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Technical Meeting on the Exploratory Studies Facility has been rescheduled for June 3, 1996, via videoconference between Washington, D.C. and Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update of activities for design and construction of the Exploratory Studies Facility and resolve related issues.

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

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E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No significant items to report.

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 progressed to Station 51+39.3 meters or 16,861 feet as of 8 a.m., May 6, 1996. The Tunnel Boring Machine is 1,265 meters or 4,151.3 feet ahead of schedule. In time, this equates to approximately 146 days ahead of schedule. Ground conditions continued all week at Category 1. The Alpine miner has advanced 11.6 meters or 38.1 feet to Station 80.1 meters or 262.8 feet in the Access/Observation Drift of the Heat Test Alcove.

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.

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III. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**A. Assistant Manager for Engineering and Field Operations**

- * There are now over 1,100 invert segments in inventory, enough for 4,428 feet of tunnel advance. The best day of the Tunnel Boring Machine excavation this week was Thursday, when 39.8 meters or 130.5 feet were excavated.

B. Assistant Manager for Scientific Programs

The summary of last month's Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis management meeting was received this week. Funding and scheduling of the restart of the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis in fiscal year 1997 in support of the Viability Assessment were the principal topics. Some streamlining of the expert judgment process was agreed to by the Department of Energy and the management team that should reduce costs about 10% without unacceptable regulatory risk. Two panels will be retained and a series of workshops will be conducted in fiscal year 1997, beginning in October 1996.

C. Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety, and Health

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

D. Assistant Manager for Suitability and Licensing

The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office participated in the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Full Board Meeting April 30-May 1, 1996, in Austin, Texas. The main topic of the meeting was the new Program Plan and program integration. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy presented the current status on the Exploratory Studies Facility and scientific program activities.

The Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office participated in the Seventh Annual International Radioactive Waste Management Conference & Exposition, April 30-May 5, 1996, in Las Vegas, Nevada. U.S. Department of Energy management outlined recent revisions to the Program Plan that resulted from Congressional budget actions.

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E. Assistant Manager for Administration

No items to report.

F. Office of Public Affairs

The International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference was held April 29-May 3, 1996, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Staff organized and chaired four sessions in the public affairs arena, assisted in the creation of an Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management exhibit, and helped staff the exhibit.

The staff gave a general Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project overview and conducted a tour of the Las Vegas Science Center for guests from the Rotary Group Study Exchange in Las Vegas, Nevada; gave a Native American Culture presentation to Pahrump Friends of the Library, in Pahrump, Nevada; and staffed a hydrology display at Water Fest '96, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The staff also gave educational presentations for students in Round Mountain, Mina, Schurz, Cottonwood, and Incline Village, Nevada, for a total of approximately 750 students; and conducted two fifth-grade environmental field trips to the Las Vegas Science Center for 160 students.

Five tours of Yucca Mountain were conducted for 172 guests. Of special interest were tours for guests from Yankee Atomic Electric Company, from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and from the International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference.

G. Participants

Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management & Operating Contractor

The semi-annual meeting of the lead executives of teammate companies, National Laboratories and the U.S. Geological Survey was held. Dr Dreyfus briefed the group on the strategy for the program.

U.S. Geological Survey

No items to report.


Wesley E. Barnes
Project Manager

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CC:

H. H. Brandt, HQ (RW-15) FORS
J. C. Bresee, HQ (RW-10) FORS
A. B. Brownstein, HQ (RW-36) FORS
M. A. Ferguson, HQ (RW-34) FORS
R. A. Milner, HQ (RW-30) FORS
L. H. Barrett, HQ (RW-2) FORS
Samuel Rousso, HQ (RW-40) FORS
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William Belke, NRC, Las Vegas, NV
Ron Pope, ORNL, Oak Ridge, TN
Florindo Mariani, White Pine County, Ely, NV
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W. L. Offutt, Nye County, Tonopah, NV
P. A. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, Chantilly, VA
V. E. Poe, Mineral County, Hawthorne, NV
Jason Pitts, Lincoln County, Pioche, NV
Lander County Board of Commissioners, Battle Mountain, NV
Eureka County Board of Commissioners, Eureka, NV
J. D. Hoffman, Esmeralda County, Goldfield, NV
D. A. Bechtel, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV
Cyril Schank, Churchill County, Fallon, NV
B. R. Mettam, Inyo County, Independence, CA
Intertech Services Corp., Las Vegas, NV
A. C. Douglas, City of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
Donald Schweitzer, BNL, Upton, NY
R. D. Dresser, Weston, Washington, DC
J. L. Smith, Occidental, CA
David Howell, IG, Las Vegas, NV
C. A. Johnson, NWPO, Carson City, NV
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