



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
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AUG 18 1995

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Washington, DC 20555

**UPDATE OF TUNNEL BORING MACHINE (TBM) ACTIVITY AND GROUND
CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED DURING RECENT EXCAVATION OF THE
EXPLORATORY STUDIES FACILITY (ESF) (SCPb: N/A)**

As part of a continuing effort to keep you informed of project activities, I would like to bring you up to date on recent ground conditions encountered during excavation of the ESF.

As you may have noticed in the daily ESF status report, TBM operations were halted during the graveyard shift on July 27, 1995, to complete the back filling of a long void created by caving in the crown of the tunnel. The void, approximately 20 meters in length and running parallel to the axis of the tunnel, was filled with select fill on July 29, 1995.

During the back filling of the void, construction personnel performed several modifications to the TBM, including the installation of grizzly bars to the cutterhead and modification of the lower gripper shoe.

TBM operations resumed on July 31, 1995. This transmittal does not invoke Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Administrative Procedure 30.27, "Reportable Geologic Conditions." The ground conditions we are now experiencing were not unexpected from either a geologic or TBM operations standpoint.

As excavation of the ESF continues, TBM operation rates will vary depending on ground conditions. We will continue to keep you updated on TBM progress and ESF conditions through the daily ESF status reports; however, we believe these recent modifications to the TBM warrant an explanation on our part.

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If you have any questions, please contact Thomas W. Bjerstedt at (702) 794-7950.


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