



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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TO: John J. Linehan, Director, HLPD, M/S 4 H 3
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt and John W. Gilray
Sr. On-Site Licensing Representatives
DATE: February 8, 1991
SUBJECT: YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report for the weeks ending January 25, and February 1, 1991.

There is nothing requiring specific management attention in these reports.

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cc w/encc.: King Stablein, M/S 4 H 3
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Dean Kunihiro, Region 5



Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization
Project Office
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Las Vegas, NV 89193-8608

WBS 1.2.9
QA: N/A

JAN 31 1991

John W. Bartlett, Director, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management,
HQ (RW-1) FORS

OFFICE OF GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL (OGD) WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING
JANUARY 25, 1991

**I. CRITICAL ITEM STATUS - YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
(YMP)**

A. Site Characterization Planning

Revision 4.01 of the Midway Valley activities time-phased logic network was issued on January 23, 1991. The Readiness Review Decision Notice prepared by the Readiness Review Board Chairman was transmitted on January 18, 1991. All prerequisites to begin trenching in Midway Valley have been completed except for the issuance of air quality permits by the State of Nevada and notification of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the closure of the audit recommendations.

Management review of drawings and specifications for the deepening of Trench 14 is scheduled to begin on January 29, 1991.

Site Characterization Plan (SCP) Progress Report

The final draft of the third semiannual, "Progress Report on Site Characterization: Yucca Mountain, Nevada" (SPR 3), for the period April through September 1990 is currently undergoing concurrence review at the U.S. Department of Energy/Headquarters (DOE/HQ). Upon completion of this review, the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) will finalize a camera-ready copy of SPR 3 for submittal for printing.

SCP Comments

The transcript from the YMP Update Meetings held in November 1990 at Henderson, Amargosa Valley, and Hawthorne, Nevada, was evaluated for potential impacts on the site characterization program. Individual comments were identified and categorized from the transcript, cross-reference was made to applicable SCP sections, and technical staff determined whether any new concerns are expressed in these comments that would not be addressed as part of the baselined site characterization program.

JAN 31 1991

SCP Study Plan Status

A draft of Study Plan 8.3.1.5.2.2, "Characterization of Regional Hydrology Due to Climate Changes," was received for review from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

All comments for Study Plan 8.3.1.17.3.4, "Effects of Local Site Geology on Surface and Subsurface Ground Motion," have been received and transmitted to USGS for consideration.

STUDY PLAN BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|----|
| In Revision After Screening Review | 1 |
| In YMPO and HQ Review | 14 |
| Awaiting Comment Resolution Meeting | 10 |
| Awaiting Author Revision | 7 |
| In YMPO/HQ Verification Audit | 5 |
| Verification Complete-Awaiting HQ Sign-off | 2 |
| Awaiting YMPO Approval | 1 |
| Approved and Awaiting Transmittal to NRC | 7 |
| NRC Acceptance Review | 10 |
| NRC Acceptance | 4 |
| Total | 61 |

Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) Alternatives and Calico Hills Risk Benefit Analysis

No significant items reported this week.

Testing Prioritization Task (TPT)

Core Team members continued to compile and draft various sections of the Phase 1 final report.

Minutes were issued for the assessment meeting of the Integration Team which was held on January 18-19, 1991, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A Core Team meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on January 24-25, 1991.

Support was provided for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Meeting held in Washington, D.C.

JAN 31 1991

B. Environmental Programs

Environmental Compliance and Permitting

The Hazardous Materials Management Program is implemented. Requests to use regulated materials are being reviewed and approved, and approval letters are being sent to the requesting organization.

DOE/HQ gave approval to publish the Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment.

Environmental Training Program improvements are being made.

Preactivity surveys continue.

Environmental Field Programs

The Radiological Monitoring Program was restarted. This startup included continuous air samplers, radon monitors, ambient radiation monitors, a ground survey of the Midway Valley A prime trench area, and soil samples--

Text was prepared for the Programmatic Agreement Annual Report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Monitoring continued on 12 radio-marked tortoises. In addition, the desert tortoise winter burrows were measured as part of the habitat use and movements study.

Data analysis was initiated on small mammal trap data.

C. Field Operations

Submitted BTP-SMF-005 to Plans and Procedures Division for Quality Management Procedure 06-04 review.

Prepared specimens for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We are now awaiting approval from the director of the Regulatory & Site Evaluation Division.

D. Project Planning and Control

Fiscal year 1991 account updates from participants continue. Data is being input into Planning and Control Systems (PACS). Current data has been received from Technical and Management Support Services (T&MSS), MAC Technical Services Company (MACTEC), Reynolds Electrical & Engineering, Co., Inc. (REECo), Raytheon Services Nevada (RSN), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and partial data from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Received December 1990 performance data (actuals) from T&MSS, MACTEC, REECO, RSN, USGS, LANL and SNL and input the data into PACS. Produced performance reports and distributed them to participants and the YMPO.

E. Quality Assurance (QA) Implementation

The QA staff hosted a Software QA Workshop on January 22-23, 1991. The workshop provided a forum for participants to discuss software issues and requirements.

F. Major Oversight Group Meetings

Carl Gertz, DOE Project Manager, participated in State of the Project Meetings at SNL on January 24, 1991, and at LANL on January 25, 1991.

G. Public Outreach Activities

Project staff reviewed the draft education plan currently being developed for grades seven through nine.

H. Near Term Decision Plan

No significant change in milestone status from the last Program Management Meeting.

II. ANALYSIS & VERIFICATION DIVISION

Attended presentations on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) performance assessment activities in Germantown, Maryland, on January 23, 1991, and a presentation on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 24, 1991, in Washington, D.C.

Attended an ACNW meeting on January 24, 1991, which primarily concerned human intrusion. Attended a meeting on expert judgment held on January 25, 1991.

III. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Project staff began preparations and arrangements for the Edison Electric Institute visit scheduled for February 12-14, 1991.

A Repository Plan workshop was conducted on January 24, 1991. The scope of the workshop included review of the "consultative draft" and an evaluation of options for the completion of the baseline Repository Plan (RP). Discussions included delaying of RW-1 Milestone, RYM05

JAN 31 1991

(currently set at March 1, 1991), to await the results of the Management System Improvement Strategy (MSIS). These results could significantly impact the following elements of the RP: (1) objectives and mission needs; (2) technical strategy and approach; (3) risk assessment; (4) management approach; and (5) project schedule and resources.

A tentative agreement has been reached by the OGD and Office of Systems and Compliance that allows the YMP to proceed with development of the ESF design requirements documents and design activities in parallel with development of MSIS documentation. It is expected that ESF design will include the following: the Basis for Design Document, General Arrangements Drawings, the Design Summary Report, and the Associated Technical Reviews.

YMPO support for the MSIS included the following:

- The Functional Analysis working group completed its initial activities in Las Vegas, Nevada, on January 17, 1991.
- \$202,478 of \$600,000 budgeted has been spent by the YMP as of close of business January 18, 1991.
- The Programmatic Task Force is completing its report, "Configure System," in Richland, Washington. The Physical Systems Task Force is compiling data on the "Dispose Waste" function in Washington, D.C.
- The next MSIS Programmatic Task Force meeting to be supported by the YMP is scheduled for the week of February 4, 1991, in Washington, D.C.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) has concurred with DOE's proposed agenda for the Engineered Barrier System Concepts Workshop tentatively scheduled for June 18-20, 1991. The workshop will be chaired by an independent facilitator and will include an expert panel.

A field trip to the Yucca Mountain site area is scheduled for January 29-30, 1991, for six members of the seventeen-member National Academy of Sciences Coupled Processes Panel reviewing the 1989 Szymanski Report. This trip was arranged by YMPO for those members of the panel who were unable to attend the full panel field trip in October 1990.

JAN 31 1991

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note that the usage of "(P)" in the calendar indicates that the event is open to the public.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>YMPO Contact</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| A. <u>DOE/HQ Meetings</u> | | | |
| Tuesday, February 5 | Program Management Meeting | Washington, DC | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Thursday-Friday, February 6-7 | DOE Site Visit to CNWRA | San Antonio, TX | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Wednesday-Thursday, April 3-4 | Strategic Principles Workshop | Denver, CO | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| B. <u>Internal and DOE/NV Meetings</u> | | | |
| Thursday, February 21 | Planning & Budget Meeting | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Friday, February 22 | TPO Meeting | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| C. <u>State and Public Interactions (P)</u> | | | |
| Wednesday, January 30 | University of Nevada at Reno | Reno, NV | A. Robison, YMPO |
| Friday, February 1 | Three Mile Island | Middletown, PA | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Wednesday, February 6 | T&MSS Staff (Lunchtime Colloquium) | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Thursday, February 7 | Disabled American Veterans | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Friday, February 8 | Chamber of Commerce | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| CANCELLED February 9 | YMP Site Open House and Tour | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Thursday, February 28 | '91 Waste Mgmt. Conference | Tucson, AZ | C. Gertz, YMPO |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>YMPO Contact</u> |
|---|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| C. <u>State and Public Interactions (P) (continued)</u> | | | |
| Tuesday, April 16 | Tunnels '91 | Golden, CO | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| Wednesday, May 1 | High Level Waste Mgmt. Conference | Las Vegas, NV | C. Gertz, YMPO |
| D. <u>Exhibits</u> | | | |
| Friday- Saturday, February 8-9 | Southern Nevada Council for the Social Studies | Las Vegas, NV | M. Powell, YMPO |
| E. <u>NRC Interactions</u> | | | |
| Tuesday- Thursday, January 29-31 | NRC Calico Hills Risk-Benefit Analysis ESF & TPT Meeting | Washington, DC | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Wednesday, February 20 | NRC Seismic Hazards Staff Technical Position TE | Washington, DC | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Tuesday, March 12 | NRC Management Mtg. on Procedural Agreements | Washington, DC | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Wednesday- Thursday, March 20-21 | NRC TE on Radionuclide Retardation & Mineral Stability | West Coast Site | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Tuesday, April 16 | NRC Thermal Loading and Repository Design Staff Technical Position TE | Washington, DC | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Wednesday, May 15 | WIPP Roundtable Discussion | TBD | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| F. <u>NWTRB Interactions (P)</u> | | | |
| Tuesday- Thursday, April 16-18 | NWTRB Full Board Meeting | Reno, NV | A. Simmons, YMPO |
| Tuesday- Thursday, July 16-18 | NWTRB Full Board Meeting | Arlington, VA | A. Simmons, YMPO |

JAN 31 1991

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>YMPO Contact</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| F. <u>NWTRB Interactions</u> (P) (continued) | | | |
| Tuesday- Thursday, October 8-10 | NWTRB Full Board Meeting | TBD | A. Simmons, YMPO |



Carl P. Gertz
Project Manager

YMP:DLH-1903

CC:

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 J. C. Bresee, HQ (RW-10) FORS
 S. J. Brocoum, HQ (RW-22) FORS
 B. A. Cerny, HQ (RW-14) FORS
 M. A. Ferguson, HQ (RW-5) FORS
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 R. A. Milner, HQ (RW-40) FORS
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WBS 1.2.9
QA: N/A

FEB 05 1991

John W. Bartlett, Director, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management,
HQ (RW-1) FORS

OFFICE OF GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 1, 1991

I. CRITICAL ITEM STATUS - YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
(YMP)

A. Site Characterization Planning

Midway Valley Trenching

Revision 4.02 of the Trench 14 activities time-phased logic network was issued on January 30, 1991. No schedule slippage has been identified.

Management review of drawings and specifications for the deepening of Trench 14 is in progress.

The Midway Valley Readiness Review Record Memorandum was finalized this week and the records package will be submitted to the Local Records Center.

All activities associated with trenching remain in place ready to commence work. Subsequent reports will not contain weekly status of Midway Valley-Calcite Silica planning.

Site Characterization Plan (SCP) Progress Report

Comments

A three-day Integration Group Meeting is being held in Las Vegas, Nevada, to develop draft responses to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (NWTB) recommendations in their Second Report to the U.S. Congress, and to continue response development for the State of Nevada's September 1989 comment package on the SCP.

SCP Study Plan Status

A draft of Study Plan 8.3.1.2.2.9, "Site Unsaturated-Zone Modeling and Synthesis," was received for review from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Study Plan 8.3.1.15.1.1, "Laboratory Thermal Properties," was transmitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review by the U.S. Department of Energy/Headquarters (DOE/HQ) on January 25, 1991.

Study Plan 8.3.1.2.3.1.1-6, "Characterization of Site Saturated-Zone Ground-Water Flow System," was approved by the Regulatory and Site Evaluation Division Director and Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division Director and is ready for controlled distribution.

STUDY PLAN BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|----|
| In Revision After Screening Review | 1 |
| In YMPO and HQ Review | 15 |
| Awaiting Comment Resolution Meeting | 10 |
| Awaiting Author Revision | 7 |
| In YMPO/HQ Verification Audit | 5 |
| Verification Complete-Awaiting HQ Sign-off | 2 |
| Awaiting YMPO Approval | 0 |
| Approved and Awaiting Transmittal to NRC | 7 |
| NRC Acceptance Review | 11 |
| NRC Acceptance | 4 |
| Total | 62 |

Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF) Alternatives and Calico Hills Risk Benefit Analysis

No significant items to report this week.

Testing Prioritization Task (TPT)

Core Team members continued to compile and draft various sections of the Phase 1 final report, which is scheduled to be completed February 8, 1991.

Revision 1 of the TPT Implementation Plan was approved after Quality Management Procedure (QMP) 06-04 review.

FEB 05 1991

B. Environmental Programs**Environmental Compliance and Permitting**

Comments were received from DOE/HQ, the Soil Conservation Service, and EG&G, Inc., concerning the Floodplain Assessment with only minor adjustments noted. The Floodplain Assessment will be published in February 1991, and copies will be forwarded to the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM).

Environmental Field Programs

Drafts for work instructions in the meteorological monitoring area were issued for internal Technical and Management Support Services (T&MSS) review.

A draft Apache Leap, Arizona, reclamation plan is being reviewed.

C. Field Operations

Training classes were conducted at the Field Operations Center. These classes included Site Orientation and Environmental Awareness, and Yucca Mountain Safety & Health Training.

The Site Manager is reviewing the two Notices-to-Proceed issued by the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office (YMPO) for Job Packages 91-1, Midway Valley, and 91-4, Environmental Field Activities.

Six Field Operating Instructions (FOIs) were approved by the Site Manager and have been sent to the project participants. These six FOIs are as follow:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| YMP-FOI-1501 | Yucca Mountain Site Office (YMSO) Motor Pool |
| YMP-FOI-3001 | YMSO Training Program |
| YMP-FOI-4701 | Yucca Mountain Field Operations Permits |
| YMP-FOI-5001 | Reporting Emergencies, Unusual Occurrences, and Off-Normal Events to DOE/HQ IAW DOE Order 5000.3A |
| YMP-FOI-5401 | Field Safety and Health Program and Coordination |
| YMP-FOI-6401 | Work Order Request for Field Service and Equipment |

Submitted Branch Technical Procedure—Sample Management Facility-006 to the Plans and Procedures Division for QMP 06-04.

D. Project Planning and Control

The project has prepared a plan to develop a resource load schedule showing a license application submittal in 2001. Coupled with this plan is the process for developing the fiscal year 1993 Work Authorization System/Field Work Proposal. The plan was presented to the project participants on February 1, 1991.

FEB 05 1991

John W. Bartlett

-4-

E. Quality Assurance (QA) Implementation

The Software QA Workshop began on January 22-23, 1991. Results included identification of the issues within existing software requirements that need to be revisited and possibly modified. Participants are collecting relevant supportive data. The group will reconvene on February 4-6, 1991, to develop recommendations for improving the Software QA requirements. Recommendations will be presented to DOE management on February 7, 1991.

YMP personnel involved in the first QA Workshop to identify scientific issues/problems with the QA Program are finalizing their presentation, which is to be given to John Bartlett, Director, OCRWM, Frank Peters, Deputy Director, OCRWM, and Carl Gertz, Project Manager, DOE/YMPO, on February 8, 1991.

The YMPO QA issued a letter to Dwight Shelor, Associate Director, Office of Systems and Compliance, for transmittal to the NRC on acceptability of the QA Program for the start of Midway Valley/Calcite Silica activities.

F. Major Oversight Group Meetings

The YMPO provided ESF and Calico Hills Risk Benefit Analysis update and information briefings to the NRC on January 29-30, 1991, in Washington, D.C.

G. Public Outreach Activities

Ace Robison, DOE/YMPO, and members of the YMPO staff made a presentation to the employees of Three-Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant on February 1, 1991.

Carl Gertz participated in a debate about Yucca Mountain at the University of Nevada in Reno, Nevada, on January 30, 1991.

Work continued on updating the 1991 YMPO exhibit schedule.

The proposed public outreach plan for rural Nevada was finalized.

Procurement activities continued for the Climax Mine display for the Las Vegas, Nevada, Yucca Mountain Information Office.

Revisions to the draft education package for school children in grades seven through nine were initiated.

H. Near Term Decision Plan

No significant change in milestone status from the last Program Management Meeting.

II. ANALYSIS & VERIFICATION DIVISION

Attended the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee Meeting on long-term testing standards in San Diego, California, on January 29-31, 1991.

Attended the DOE/Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) briefing to the Defense Nuclear Safety Board on status of the WIPP on January 28, 1991, in Washington, D.C.

Participated in the systems engineering functional analysis for the physical system, "Dispose Waste," on January 28-31, 1991.

III. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

The YMPO support for Management System Improvement Strategy, included the following:

- The Physical Core Team completed the requirements allocation of the Nevada State Codes to the specific sub-function, "Dispose Waste."
- The Programmatic Core Team, in Richland, Washington, is preparing the in-process report "Systems Engineering, Design Systems, and Test and Evaluate System."

A National Academy of Science (NAS) Field Trip to the Yucca Mountain site area took place on January 29-30, 1991, for six members of the seventeen-member NAS Coupled Processes Panel reviewing the 1989 report entitled "Conceptual Considerations of the Yucca Mountain Groundwater System with Special Emphasis on the Adequacy of this System to Accommodate a High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository." This trip was arranged by a member of the YMPO staff for those members of the panel who were unable to attend the full panel field trip in October 1990.

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| A. <u>DOE/EQ Meetings</u> | | | |
| Tuesday, February 5 | Program Management Meeting | Washington, DC | C. Gertz, YMPO |

FEB 05 1991

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>YMPO Contact</u> |
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| A. <u>DOE/HQ Meetings (continued)</u> | | | |
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| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>YMPO Contact</u> |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| E. <u>NRC Interactions</u> (continued) | | | |
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| Tuesday- Thursday, October 8-10 | NWTRB Full Board Meeting | TBD | A. Simmons, YMPO |

YMP:DLH-2021

Maxwell Blanchard
Carl P. Gertz
Project Manager

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Stephanie Hannah, HQ (PA-3) FORS
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G. P. King, HQ (RW-5) FORS
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F. G. Peters, HQ (RW-2) FORS
Samuel Rouso, HQ (RW-10) FORS
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