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 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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August 11, 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert E. Browning, Director  
 Division of Waste Management

FROM: F. Robert Cook, Senior On-Site Licensing  
 Representative, Basalt Waste Isolation Project,  
 BWIP

SUBJECT: BWIP SITE REPORT FOR WEEKS OF JULY 8 THRU AUGUST  
 10, 1984

1. I attended a meeting with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other NRC Staff representatives on July 11, 1984. We (NRC Staff) presented the role NRC has in implementing the NWSA. I explained my role as observer and communicator on-site at the BWIP. The Indian tribes' representatives appeared only moderately informed on DOE and NRC plans relative to NWSA, prior to our presentation. They thanked us for information and overview we provided.

The Tribes' representatives identified their concerns relative to the potential repository. Transportation safety appeared to be foremost in their list of concerns.

2. On July 12, 1984 R. J. Wright and I met with DOE/RL representatives Tinsley, Saget and Lassila. Wright was visiting my office and wanted to find out the status of DOE responses to various Staff letters and workshop comments. DOE provided this information. He also identified that NRC (Altomare and others) were wanting to visit BWIP to review the BWIP issue tracking system and data/records management system.

3. I obtained witnesses to my record of invention (Attachment A) which I wrote on July 7 and 8 1984. This invention stemmed from a realization of the need to determine water column densities to interpret piezometer water level measurements in hydrologic studies. (This problem has been discussed in earlier reports.) I have forwarded it to the NRC patent lawyer (N. Abrams) who informed me he would search for a patent on such an invention. If the search provides negative results, I recommend we request ELD to apply for a government patent. The potential benefit to the government's waste isolation program warrants this action.

4. From July 13 to July 24 I was on leave.

5. During the last half of the week of July 22, 1984, and the next week I encountered two problems involving access to the

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records, activities and personnel associated with the project and waste management Materials Characterization Center (MCC) activities at PNL.

a. One involved badging for the year starting August 17, 1984. You had requested by the 277 Form routine access for me to the 200 East and West, 300, 600 and 700 areas at Hanford. This was consistent with the access I have had during the past year, and is based on needs to visit these areas to observe testing, talk with personnel and review records associated with the project. On August 2, 1984, I was informed by DOE Basalt Project (Squires) that my new badge was ready and that access to the 200 West and 300 areas had been denied. I questioned him as to why, and his response was that there was no reason for me to visit those areas. I noted that they had on-going radiation testing and, in the case of the 200 West area, various testing in hydrologic wells and from time to time other geotechnical activities such as the recent seismic profiling intended for RLL-9.

Squires then indicated that the DOE project people do not have routine access to these areas. I noted that this would be the case for the radiation laboratories since special safety training was required, and if DOE people did not have the training, they would not be allowed access. I noted that I was in the process of taking the training and had completed one course. I noted that I guessed that DOE people could have access to these areas, excluding the restricted zones of special activities, if they had the appropriate clearance and need for access.

The issue of badging was not resolved with Squires. He referred me to Mecca (DOE) who he said had signed the badging authorization with the deletions he noted.

This situation being consistent with action DOE (Olson) had initiated earlier in the year to issue me a new picture badge with limitations which excluded access to the 200 West and 300 Areas, I assumed DOE management was in concurrence with denying the formally requested access. (At that time I did not accept the new badge and retained my old badge after discussing the issue with Olson. He did not insist on my relinquishing the old badge, and the issue was dropped.)

I proceeded to inform Bell of the current problem the morning of August 2, 1984.

b. Early in July Bell had requested that I review records at PNL associated with an MCC test, MCC-D2, ONE YEAR LEACH TEST DATA FOR SRL-131 GLASS, since NRC (Bell) in his role on the Materials Review Board (MRB) had been requested to review the data package for this test. I proceeded to arrange to review these records at PNL with J. Mendel, the Head of the MCC at PNL, prior to my going on leave. Upon my return on July 22, I contacted Mendel to set up a time which was convenient with him. He informed me that I should talk to DOE (EA Bracken) to get DOE concurrence first. I proceeded to contact DOE [Basalt Project (Olson)] to inform him of my desire to review the MCC records and to request that he arrange the review. Olson was aware of my desire, since

he stated he had already talked to Bracken and informed her that he had no objection to my reviewing the MCC records. He indicated, however, that I should talk to Bracken since she was in a separate Division, the Waste Management Division in the Office of the Assistant Manager for Defense, and had the lead on this work at PNL.

I proceeded to contact Ms Bracken to request that she set up the records review at PNL. Ms Bracken subsequently informed me that in reviewing my request with her management (OJ Elgert) and the SRL project office sponsoring the MCC work at PNL, DOE had decided that NRC should formally request by letter to the Office of Assistant Manager For Defense, RL, the access that I desired to review the PNL records. I proceeded to inform Bell of this situation on the morning of August 2, 1984.

Later, on the morning of August 2, 1984, I was called to a meeting in the office of JH Anttonen, DOE. Olson and Mecca were there. He wanted to talk about the two problems which are related above. He said he was aware of both of them through a telephone conversation he had just had with Mr. Bennett at DOE Hdq's. and wanted to hear my story. I related the problems as they are discussed in "a" and "b" above. He seemed to have been unaware of the issues prior to his conversation with Bennett and berated me for not having informed him earlier of the issues. I apologized, noting that I assumed he was aware of both issues. After a lengthy conversation in which Anttonen concluded that my badge should not be changed and that there was no reason to write a formal letter to request access to the PNL records, he asked that any future issues of this sort or anything else be brought to his attention by me. I agreed to do this as it appeared warranted. He concluded with the assurance that he would resolve the problems.

The specific problems are now resolved. I have a new badge and I reviewed PNL records on August 10, 1984. The results of this review will be included in a separate report. The review will be forwarded to DOE (Office of the Assistant Manager for Defense) as requested by their letter authorizing me to review the PNL records, see Attachment B. Also note that the letter only authorizes review of the records associated with the MCC-D2 testing. This was emphasized at PNL by the PNL folks who said I could not see records concerning a similar test, MCC-D1, accomplished just prior to the MCC-D2 test.

I believe there may still be a problem with my reviewing the MCC work and related records at PNL in the future. I plan to take this up with Anttonen upon my return from San Diego. I will also discuss our interest in other waste management work under the NWPA which you are coordinating for NRC and ascertain whether or not there is a problem with my interfacing with the various groups working for DOE here at the Hanford Site to stay abreast of their work.

6. On July 30, 31 and August 1, 1984 I participated part time in a data review session with NRC representatives at RHO. The objective was to review geologic maps which RHO has in their files to help plan a future field trip to review the adequacy

of these maps. On the First I had planned to take Cutler, the NRC representative participating in the review on a tour of the area to show him various geologic features and basically acquaint him with the area.

On July 31 Tallman (RHO) informed me that RHO would like to send S. Reidel, a geologist, along with Cutler and myself on the tour to help us and point out various geologic features. I accepted the request, noting that it was unnecessary that they accompany us, that it would take all day and that we did not want to impose, considering complaints from DOE (Olson) and RHO (S. Price and G. Hunt) in the past concerning my taking too much time of the RHO personnel, in particular Mr. Reidel's time. On Wednesday morning not only did Reidel show up at 6:15 a.m., but a second RHO employee, (T. Tolan) also arrived to accompany us on the tour. In addition, DOE (Lasilla and Hurley) met us at about 10:00 in a second vehicle and accompanied us with the second vehicle the entire day. The redundancy of RHO and DOE personnel and vehicles was unnecessary, although we did use the DOE vehicle in one instance to gain access to a fault zone on the southwest side of Yakima Ridge to the west of the RRL.

One item which arose during the review on July 30 and 31 was RHO's questioning of the NRC representatives as to their thoughts on plans for mapping in the future and needs for such mapping. I subsequently told RHO and DOE management that I thought such subject matter was not appropriate for the data review sessions, but could be appropriately taken up in a workshop or other formal communication with NRC staff and their consultants. They agreed and indicated that they would inform the RHO staff of the intended purpose of the data reviews by NRC and their consultants.



F. R. Cook  
Senior On-Site Licensing  
Representative

attachments: as

cf: without attachments  
JOBunting  
HJMiller  
MRKnapp  
JMHoffman  
TRVerma  
PTPrestholt  
RJWright  
FRCook