

United States
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20555

November 10, 1983

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 WEEKLY REPORTS FOR WEEKS OF OCTOBER 23 AND 30, 1983;
REPORT OF TRIPS DURING SAID PERIODS

This report covers three separate training sessions and on-site reviews on November 3 and 4. Each is discussed separately below.

A. Region V Training:

1. J. B. Martin and B. Faulkenberry noted the following new objectives for Region V Inspectors.
 - a. Review licensee management practices and other non-regulatory type issues which can affect overall plant safety.
 - b. Institute an operational plan in FY 84 (much like IMSS's current "OPS Plan") to be a prototype for other Regional OPS Plans.
 - c. Emphasize actions to promote good public relations. Listen to what people have to say and seek out their comments. Be interested in what they consider problems and, as possible, try to resolve what they perceive as problems. Provide feedback to the public.
2. Each of the resident inspectors presented current problems at their respective sites. There was a general consensus that the residents should communicate via weekly conference calls to appraise each other of current issues.
(NOTE I believe the on-site licensing representatives should also talk in conference at least weekly to communicate current observations. I will initiate these conferences.)

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3. Procedures for handling allegations of technical problems and wrong doing were reviewed. Region V has a formal procedure for resolving all allegations. A high degree of attention is paid to this area of the job. Although it was noted that some allegations are not pertinent to NRC's concerns, many are and lead to major issues with licensees. The increased attention to allegations throughout NRC stems from congressional interest in this area.

It appears that Waste Management should establish a policy/procedures as to how allegations should be handled.

B. NRC Training (Discussion with the Office of Public Affairs-Fouchard and Newlin.)

Prestholt, Verma and I discussed the on-site licensing job with Fouchard and Newlin. Fouchard made two points:

1. Be forthright and factual with the public. Try to answer their questions.
2. Do not get into issues which are not in the scope of your responsibility. Refer the public to the Region V public affairs resident (who reports to Fouchard) or to headquarters.
3. Fouchard suggested that we introduce ourselves to the local newspaper reporters covering nuclear waste issues. I noted that it was our Waste Management intent to refer media questions back to the Director. Fouchard did not seem to think that this was a good idea. The question of site representatives involvement with the media should be revisited.

C. Mine Safety Training (October 31-November 2, 1983.)

The course consisted of 3 full days of instruction and film presentations. First aid, surface mine hazards and subsurface mine hazards was the basic subdivision of topics discussed. In addition there was about a 2 hour presentation describing the Mine Safety Act of 1978. A certificate was given at the end of the 3 day session documenting the training. Such new miner safety training is a requirement for individuals prior to their entry into any mining activity covered by the act.

I am separately arranging a tour to one or two deep mines with Bureau of Mines personnel at Spokane.

D. BWIP Site Observations.

1. Rockwell has a working code PACSTAT for waste package analyses. The

specification for this code and potential user documentation should exist. These documents should be obtained by the NRC staff and reviewed in preparation for the forthcoming waste package work shop.

2. Recent over pressure pulse testing in DC-5 in the Cohasset (3163 to 3204 feet deep) provide a conductivity of 10^6 to 10^5 ft²/day in the horizontal direction.
3. Rockwell recently completed a document BW-ST-19P, Preliminary Tectonic Stability, and has received comments from a PNL reviewer. I will attempt to obtain a copy for the staff.

F. Robert Cook

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cc: HJMiller
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