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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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WM Project 16

Docket No.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: '86 OCT 14 P2:1

Robert E. Browning, Director Division of Waste Management

FROM:

Tilak R. Verma, Senior On-Site Licensing Representative Salt Repository Project (SRP)

SUBJECT:

SRP SITE REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1986

- 1. During the week of September 2-5, 1986, I visited the NRC-HQ. Meetings were held with the Division Management, Repository Project Management and with the individual members of the Salt Team. Also, gave a briefing on the status of SRP activities in a weekly salt team meeting on September 3, 1986. Had discussions with Pauline Brooks of WMRP about the draft of SRP Performance Allocation Implementation Plan. I have reviewed this draft plan and provided some highlights on performance allocation and testing strategy to Brooks and also to Johnson of WMRP. I also discussed my observations from the Fluor QA audit with Mike Bell and Jim Kennedy. A copy of the audit report is attached for your information. During my meeting with Dan Galson of WMRP, I discussed with him Readiness Reviews being conducted by SRP on "Start of Field Activities" and on "Site Characterization Plan." Also, gave him some details of off-site testing information available from WIPP, Asse Mine and Avery Island.
2. Spent considerable time in preparations for Appendix 7 visits in Geology and Geophysics and in the areas of In-Situ Testing and Repository Design. SRPO management and technical staff were very cooperative in providing the information requested by the DWM technical staff.
3. During the week of September 22-26, 1986, SRPO conducted a QA audit of Waste Package Program and Performance Assessment work at PNL. Craig Walenga and I attended the audit as NRC observers. The audit, led by Jerry Reese of SRPO, was conducted by three audit teams. Each audit team consisted of one or two technical people and one or two QA auditors. Jerry Reese coordinated the audit activities. The scope of this audit was to verify implementation of PNL QA Plan and Procedures on activities pertaining to Performance Assessment and Waste Package Program. The audit resulted in SRPO finding 11 deficiencies (3 findings and 8 observations). Most of the deficiencies relate to PNL's work on Performance Assessment. I should also note that most of the deficiencies relate to the Programmatic Requirements and Compliance to QA Plans and Implementing Procedures and not to the Performance or the End Products. I discussed my observations with the SRP QA audit teams and also with Mike Bell and Jim Kennedy. I found the QA audit of PNL effective in identifying weak areas. Causes of the weakness were also identified. I have asked Jerry Reese to send me a copy of the audit report when it is finalized.

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4. John Trapp and Julia Corrado of WMGT visited Columbus on September 29, through October 1, 1986 under Appendix 7. SRPO and ONWI staff were cooperative and open in making the draft documents and other information available to Trapp and Corrado. Every document we requested was made available. Trapp and Corrado were also provided information on Surface Investigation Plan, Site Study Plans and Level 3 Networks. In discussions with Trapp and Corrado and also with SRPO management, I find that the Appendix 7 visit was quite successful and was also helpful to NRC and DOE.
5. During the week of September 29 through October 3, 1986, Tanious and Pearing from WMEG along with two of their contractors (Cummings and Hart) visited SRPO in Columbus and Fluor in Irvine, California, under Appendix 7. This visit also was very successful. I have discussed this Appendix 7 visit and also the one in Geology with Robert Johnson and with Mike Bell.
6. On October 14, 1986, I return back to Silver Spring as a Senior Hydrogeologist. As I mentioned to you earlier, I shall be happy to assist the DWM management and staff in interfacing with SRPO. The three years of my assignment as a Senior Licensing Representative has been a valuable experience for me.

Tilak R. Verma
Tilak R. Verma
Senior On-Site
Licensing Representative
Salt Repository Project

NRC:TRV:max:1466LP

Enclosures:
As Stated

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