

Department of Energy

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APR 01 1988

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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) TECHNICAL MEETING ON ALTERNATE CONCEPTUAL MODELS OF THE GROUNDWATER SYSTEM AT THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE

The DOE is planning to conduct a technical meeting on the subject of alternative conceptual models of the groundwater system at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This workshop is being planned as part of the consultation process. The purpose of the meeting is to consider different conceptual models of the groundwater system, including geologic, tectonic, hydrologic, geochemical, and climatological influences in the Yucca Mountain region. Open discussion of the similarities, differences, and compatibilities of the various conceptual models is anticipated. The relative merits of the models will not be evaluated during the meeting.

Our records indicate that you commented on, or expressed an interest in, the conceptual model of the Yucca Mountain groundwater system as presented in the Environmental Assessment or in the Site Characterization Plan/Consultation Draft (SCP/CD). The DOE is therefore encouraging you to attend the technical meeting and to present or participate in discussions of alternate conceptual models. If you are unable to attend and have a colleague(s) who has expressed an interest, please extend this invitation to that person(s).

Presenters are encouraged to address the following points to facilitate open discussion about aspects of the various conceptual models:

- o Assumptions underlying the model.
- o Physical processes and disruptive events incorporated in the model.
- o Boundary conditions.
- o Available data supporting the model.
- o Additional data needed to refine the model and field and laboratory testing proposed to gather the additional data.
- o Analyses to be performed to evaluate the data and the conceptual model.
- o Implications for groundwater travel time and radionuclide release.



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Paul Fenske

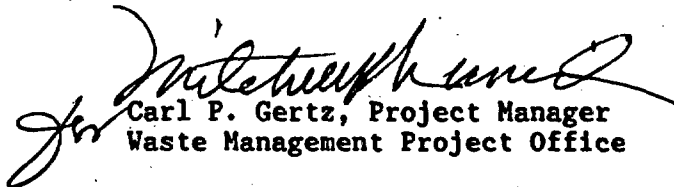
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Please note that information concerning the additional data needed to refine the model and the testing proposed to gather the additional data is considered essential to the objective of the meeting. That objective is to outline steps needed to determine if the testing program proposed in the SCP/CD will provide the data needed to test alternative conceptual models of the groundwater system at Yucca Mountain. A verbatim transcript of the meeting will be prepared in order to maintain as complete a record as possible.

The meeting will be held April 11-14, 1988, at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. A preliminary agenda of the meeting is enclosed. Please contact Edward Regnier, DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, (202) 586-4959 or FTS 586-5355, if you have any questions. We also request that you advise Mr. Regnier as to whether you will participate or not.

WMPO:RAL-1704


Carl P. Gertz, Project Manager
Waste Management Project Office

Enclosure:
Preliminary Agenda

cc w/encl:

V. J. Cassella, HQ (RW-222) FORS
Ralph Stein, HQ (RW-24) FORS
S. H. Kale, HQ (RW-20) FORS
T. H. Isaacs, HQ (RW-20) FORS
E. P. Regnier, HQ (RW-242) FORS
S. J. Brocoum, HQ (RW-233) FORS
D. L. Siefken, Weston, Washington, DC
B. J. Youngblood, NRC, Washington, DC
M. A. Glora, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV
M. B. Blanchard, WMPO, NV

NRC-DOE TECHNICAL MEETING

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTUAL MODELS OF THE GROUNDWATER SYSTEM

YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meeting purpose is to consider different conceptual models of the groundwater system, including the geologic, tectonic, hydrologic, geochemical, and climatologic influences in the Yucca Mountain region. This is to promote open discussion about similarities, differences, and compatibilities of the various conceptual models. Using such information, DOE will be able to ensure that the SCP contains plans for data collection sufficient to evaluate alternative models. Each presentation should include the following six items:

- o Assumptions supporting the model
- o Physical processes and disruptive events incorporated in the model
- o Boundary conditions
- o Available data supporting the model
- o Additional data needed to refine the model and testing proposed to gather the additional data (surface-based/ESF)
- o Analyses to be performed to evaluate the data and the conceptual model

Day 1

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 9:00 - 9:30 | DOE Introductory Remarks | |
| | Purpose and Scope | R. Stein, DOE/HQ |
| | Background | C. Gertz, DOE/NV |
| 9:30 - 11:00 | NRC Introductory Remarks and Summary of SCP-CD Comments Relevant to Conceptual Models | |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | DOE Response | |
| 11:30 - 1:00 | Lunch | |
| 1:00 - 4:00 | DOE Conceptual Model | |
| 1:00 - 1:10 | Introduction | M. Blanchard, DOE/NV |
| 1:10 - 2:45 | The Hydrologic Setting | W. Wilson, USGS |
| | o Include the 6 items identified above | |

- 2:45 - 3:00 Break
- 3:00 - 3:45 Translation to numerical models S. Sinnock, SNL
 for performance assessment
- o Include the 6 items identified above
- 3:45 - 5:00 Clarifying questions and commentary from
 participants

Day 2

Presentations of other conceptual models: Chairpersons:
 (Presenters to be arranged) S. Brocoum, DOE/HQ
 M. Blanchard, DOE/NV

- 1 to 3 hrs Description of Alternative Conceptual Model
 for each
 presenter o Include the 6 items identified above
- 15 to 30 min. Clarifying questions from Participants
 on description of Conceptual Model

Day 3

8:00 - 10:30 Open discussion of similarities and Chairpersons:
 differences among the various Conceptual S. Brocoum, DOE/HQ
 Models M. Blanchard, DOE/NV

Moderators:
 D. Siefken, Weston
 M. Voegelé, SAIC

- o Extent to which the alternative conceptual models incorporate the same physical processes and disruptive events and where they differ
- o Extent to which the alternative conceptual models employ the same underlying assumptions and where they differ
- o Extent to which the alternative conceptual models have similar initial fixed and variable boundary conditions and where they differ
- o Extent to which the alternative conceptual models have similar information needs and where they differ
- o Implication of models on groundwater travel time and radionuclide transport

10:30 - 11:00 Caucus/Break

11:00 - 12:00 View of each presenter as presented by a Spokesperson from each organization

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 Open discussion on Sufficiency of Data Collection Plans in SCP-CD (DOE to provide brief summary/overview of related topics from SCP-CD)

Chairpersons:
S. Brocoum, DOE/HQ
M. Blanchard, DOE/NV

Moderators:
D. Siefken, Weston
M. Voegele, SAIC

- o Extent to which the surface-based testing information needs are similar and where they differ
- o Extent to which the ESF testing information needs are similar and where they differ

3:00 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 5:00 Discussion on Sufficiency of Data (continued)

5:00 - 5:30 Caucus for Day 4 Summary Statements

Day 4

8:00 - 9:00 DOE Statement: Discussion relevant to Szymanski's draft report; Summary Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models

Chairpersons:
S. Brocoum, DOE/HQ
M. Blanchard, DOE/NV

9:00 - 9:30 NRC Summary Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models

9:30 - 10:00 State Summary Statement on Alternative Conceptual Models

10:00 - 12:00 Preparation of Draft Meeting Summary

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 5:00 Discussion and Finalization of Meeting Summary