

MAR 16 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Linehan, Section Leader
Operations Branch Division of High-Level Waste Management

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager
Operations Branch Division of High-Level Waste Management

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 25 AND 26, 1988

On February 25, 1988, I attended the Technical Project Officers (TPO) meeting held by the Department of Energy (DOE) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The TPO meeting is held monthly by DOE and it involves the principles associated with the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigation (NNWSI). There is a TPO from DOE as well as one from the DOE contractors. Each TPO present provided an update of ongoing activities.

Some of the key points presented by the Chairman Mr. Carl Gertz and the DOE TPO Mr. Max Blanchard included:

- (1) DOE-Nevada has contracted with Management Analysis Corporation - MAC to provide another layer of overview in the area of quality assurance and control;
- (2) DOE anticipates that a 50% design review of the architect/engineering firms will be conducted in April and, if it is, the staff will be invited;
- (3) work on the Section 175 report, socioeconomic impacts of the repository, is ongoing;
- (4) DOE has begun to build an annotated license application outline;
- (5) the Site Characterization Plan and Study Plans still have a way to go for completion; and
- (6) preparation for the February 29, 1988 NRC site visit worked out well in the areas of technical communications and coordination.

Science Applications reported that it was looking to expand and add 20,000 square feet of office space. Part of this construction would be used for training and the rest would accommodate approximately 100 additional people.

Fennix and Scission noted that it had provided the budget estimates for the exploratory shaft facility. Based on these estimates, F&S stated that it would have to double the resource effort on the Title I design. Finally, the Los Alamos National Laboratory reported that it had completed the response to the staff mini audit.

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The final presentation of the meeting was by Mr. Al Rogers of the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mr. Rogers discussed the upgrade that was underway on the seismic monitoring network. Although the present system was state-of-the-art when it was installed, it is a narrow-band-width, low-frequency system. Upgrades to the system would not only make it broad band but would offer on-scale digital data; digital telemetry versus FM analog telemetry; and near real-time, single-pass auto processing. In addition the USGS would increase the station density plus, at some stations, have both horizontal and vertical seismometers. The present system mostly offers vertical seismometers.

Also attending the TPO meeting from the staff was Mr. Paul Prestholt the Onsite Representative.

On Friday February 26, 1988, I visited the Yucca Mountain Site with Mr. Prestholt. Activities on Friday included a tour of G Tunnel where types of rock formations similar to Yucca Mountain are being studied, the Nevada Test Site, and Yucca Mountain.

151

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Manager Operations Branch Division of
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