



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: February 27, 1987
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report received in this office, i.e., for week ending February 20, 1987.

nan for PTP

Enclosure

cc: J. J. Linehan
K. Stablein
S. G. Bilhorn
S. Wastler

WM Record File
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Nevada Operations Office
P. O. Box 14100
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FEB 25 1987

Stephen H. Kale, Associate Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ
(RW-20) FORS

NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE INVESTIGATIONS (NNWSI) PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 20, 1987

I. Critical Items Status

A. Stop-Work Order

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)--The status of the five remaining sets of scientific investigation planning (SIP) documents and their associated Quality Assurance Level Assignment Sheets (QALAS) requiring Waste Management Project Office (WMPO) approval to rescind the stop-work provisions for those activities has not changed since February 13, 1987, with one exception. The due date for LLNL review of the SIP documents for integrated testing has been rescheduled to March 15, 1987.

SIPs approved by WMPO	5
SIPs in process	5

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)--The status of the five conditions required to lift the stop-work order on technical and scientific activities has not changed since February 13, 1987.

USGS SIP documents in internal review this week include hydraulic and conservative- traces tests in fractured rock, prototype bulk permeability, and surface-based borehole investigations. SIP documents for paleoenvironmental studies and exploratory shaft geologic testing received final internal review prior to submittal to WMPO for approval. SIP documents for the shallow unsaturated-zone Project are in the editing process.

USGS QA training, which was initiated during November 1986, continues and should be completed during March 1987.

SIPs approved by WMPO	0
SIPs in process for current investigations	38
SIPs in process for future investigations	10

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)--Eighteen of the SAIC activities have approved SIP/QALA documents. Only two SIPs need to be approved by WMPO.

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B. Site Characterization Plan (SCP)

A series of workshops is scheduled for February 17-27, in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters (HQ) and NNWSI staff to discuss and resolve HQ comments. The workshops will focus on Section 8.3.

A Project Overview Committee (POC) review of Sections 8.3.5.9 and 8.3.5.10, Waste Package (WP) containment and Engineered Barrier System (EBS) performance, took place February 2, 3, and 4; the reviewed text was transmitted to HQ during the week of February 9.

A POC review of higher level findings and siting criteria took place February 5 and 6, and the reviewed text was transmitted to HQ during the week of February 9.

Project interfaces with planned USGS SCP activities have been identified as a result of a detailed review of SCP Chapter 8. The interfaces are grouped according to (1) interfaces between the USGS and other Project participants and (2) interfaces within the USGS NNWSI Project. The activity interfaces will be used to prepare site design and performance assessment networks for the SCP.

The Permanent Internal Review Committee (PIRC) 15 tectonics subgroup met February 9-12. A markup of the preclosure and postclosure tectonics sections is expected to be transmitted to HQ this week.

A POC review of Section 1.7 (Mineral Resources) and 8.3.1.9 (Human Interference) took place February 10-11. Section 8.3.1.9 was transmitted to HQ on February 17, and the Section 1.7 markup is expected to be completed in mid-March.

A POC review of Sections 8.4 and 8.7 took place January 28-29 and the reviewed text was transmitted to HQ the week of February 9. The text was revised to match the white paper. An informal review requested by HQ is planned sometime during the week of February 23, to discuss comments. A meeting is planned with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State to discuss changes in the Exploratory Shaft Facility construction and configuration.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requirements for rehabilitation and reclamation of land will require updating of Section 8.7.

The PIRC 15 data requirements subgroup met on February 12 to discuss efforts to complete the data base. Lists of data requests from performance and design issues have also been put into the data base (based on Section 8.3). Lists are under review by the subgroup for consistency in terminology. The lists will need to be reviewed by participants; PIRC 15 is to be the mechanism.

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The SCP glossary is currently under preparation.

Copies of technical procedures referenced in the SCP need to be made available for the SAIC library.

A preliminary list of study plans and correction to activities described in Section 8.3 was transmitted to HQ the week of February 9. No schedules were provided.

A tentative meeting with HQ to discuss progress on Section 8.5 (Schedules and Milestones) is planned for the week of February 23.

C. Core Sample Management

At the USGS, final draft versions of three core-handling procedures are in the final approval process. WMPO, USGS, and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) personnel met to discuss the procedures for transferring the core samples presently stored in the core library facility in Mercury to the new sample facility in Area 25. The sample transfer can only occur after the facility is modified and available for beneficial occupancy. Inventory of the existing core is required before it can be transferred. The sample transfer plan will be prepared over the next four to six weeks. WMPO, Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc. (REECO), and SAIC personnel met to discuss Title I and Title II design criteria for the Sample Management Facility.

I-A. Project Manager's Concerns

The following concerns have been reported previously on Weekly Highlights reports.

Issue	Status	First Report Date
1. Letter to Knight dated March 25 requests HQ help in obtaining available NRC information regarding criteria, restrictions, and analyses relating to over-flight of licensed facilities by aircraft. (86-958)	Due May 6, 1986. Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR) action delayed due to higher priority issues (12/16/87 update).	03/27/86

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
2. Letter to Jelacic dated August 21 requests information about applicability of "A Guide to Radiological Accident Considerations for Siting and Design of Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Facilities" to Nuclear Waste Policy Act Program. (86-2126)	Due September 11, 1986. In internal review; HQ letter 2/5/87 indicates must obtain ruling from Office of General Counsel before taking any actions concerning this matter 2/18/87).	10/31/86
3. Letter to Stein requests a briefing be given on November 4 to Nevada Operations Office management by Resource Technology, Inc., concerning their recommendations on drilling activities for the nuclear waste isolation program. (87-252)	Final report will be completed shortly; meeting with management may not be necessary. Meeting has been postponed indefinitely (2/10/87).	10/24/86
4. Letter dated November 10 to Newton requests clarification of three areas in minutes of July 23-24 QACG meeting: 1) phasing of NQA-1 1986 into Project QA plans; 2) interpretation of QA administrative procedures; and 3) references to State and tribes and NRC participating on DOE audits. (87-404)	Due December 8, 1986.	11/14/86
5. Letter to Knight on December 2 comments on proposed interactions and technical meetings with NRC and need to complete SCP and requests HQ approval to conduct a DOE and NRC interaction on seismic/tectonics in February 1987. (87-529)	Due December 23, 1986.	12/12/86

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
6. Letter to Newton dated December 15 transmits NNWSI Project QA Plan to OGR and requests expeditious review. (87-596)	Due January 1, 1987.	01/02/87
7. January 22 letter to Stein transmits final version of letter report describing ongoing and planned site characterization activities. Requests approval to provide copies to State of Nevada at January 23 meeting. (87-749)	Due January 22, 1987.	01/23/87
8. Letter to Kale on January 26 requests earliest possible advice as to action NNWSI Project should take in reviewing SCP reference documents to assure QA requirements. (87-821)	Due February 9, 1987.	02/06/87
9. December 22, letter to Alexander requesting clarification of the Study Plan Review. (87-844)	Due January 5, 1987.	01/30/87
10. January 14, letter to Stein transmitting the NNWSI Project's SCP to the OGR for review. (87-845)	Due February 27, 1987. Stein reply of 2/9/87 approves release of SCP Chapters 1-7 to NRC, USGS, State of Nevada, and affected Indian Tribes as information copies.	01/30/87

Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

Four representatives from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a WMPO representative toured the G-Tunnel underground facility on February 13, 1987.

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Los Alamos National Laboratories (Los Alamos) submitted the draft report "Sorpton of Radionuclides Using Different Groundwater Compositions" to WMPO for policy review. This document fulfills Milestone M316.

Los Alamos submitted a preliminary draft of the NNWSI Exploratory Shaft Prototype Test Plan (Milestone M105) to WMPO for information purposes only. This document includes draft detailed test plans for eight tests (two of which are combined into one document) and previously prepared draft prototype investigation plans for the remaining tests. An updated document, to be prepared by July 1, 1987, will include detailed test plans for all of the prototype tests.

SAIC staff members attended a seminar on high-level nuclear waste in Fallon, Nevada. Organized by Fallon residents and the vice-chairman of the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects, the meeting included speakers from the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office.

III. Upcoming Events

A. Coordinating Group Meetings

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1.	Tuesday-Thursday, March 10-12	Institutional and Socioeconomic Coordi- nation Group meeting	Albuquerque, NM	E. Lundgaard, WMPO

B. HQ Meetings

1.	Monday-Friday, February 23-27	SCP Comment Response Workshops	Washington, DC	M. Blanchard, WMPO
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C. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings

1.	Tuesday, February 24	Quality Assurance Working Group (Waste Package) Meeting	Columbus, OH	J. Blaylock, WMPO
2.	Tuesday, March 3	Sample Overview	Las Vegas	U. Clanton,
3.	Tuesday, March 17	DOE/NV Manager's meeting	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
4.	Tuesday-Thursday, March 17-19	Systems Engineering Integration Group meeting	Las Vegas (tentative)	J. Robson, WMPO
5.	Wednesday-Thursday, March 25-26	PM-TPO meeting	Las Vegas	J. Fiore, SAIC

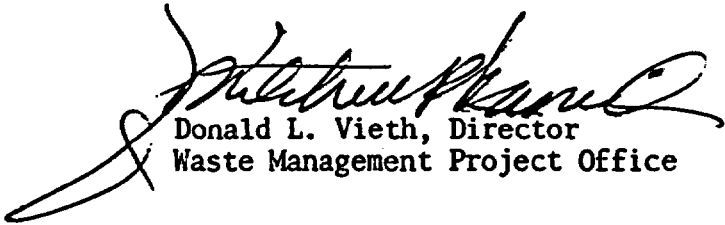
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
D. <u>State and Public Interaction</u>			
None to report.			
E. <u>NRC Interaction</u>			
1. Monday-Friday, February 23-27	Week-long tour of NRC and its consultants	Las Vegas	J. Szymanski, WMPO
F. <u>Other</u>			
1. Monday-Thursday, March 2-5	Waste Management '87 Conference	Tucson, AZ	

WMPO:WRD-1041


Donald L. Vieth, Director
Waste Management Project Office