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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director  
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative  
DATE: January 5, 1987  
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report received in this office, i.e., for week ending December 19, 1986.

nan for PTP

Enclosure

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

WM Record File

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WM Project 11

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

P. O. Box 14100

Las Vegas, NV 89114-4100

DEC 23 1986

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 DECEMBER 19, 1986

#### I. Critical Items Status

##### A. Stop Work Order

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)--Two of the remaining seven sets of scientific investigation planning (SIP) documents were completed and submitted to the Waste Management Project Office (WMPO). The remaining five are affected by the higher priorities of the waste package strategy document and the site characterization plan (SCP). The status of those that remain outstanding is as follows:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Waste package environment	Being revised after technical review. Draft due to WMPO on January 31, 1987.
2. Waste form - spent fuel	Draft due on January 30, 1987 (delay due to preparation of waste package strategy document).
3. Waste form - glass	Draft to WMPO on December 1, 1986.
4. Metals barriers	Draft SIP documents due for internal review on February 27, 1987.
5. Other materials	Technical work will not proceed until quality assurance level assignments (QALAs) and additional personnel are available.
6. Integrated testing	Draft SIP documents due for internal review on February 14, 1987. Delay due to preparation of waste package strategy document.
7. Waste package design	Final SIP documents to WMPO on December 10, 1986. Planning is underway for negotiations in January on a container fabrication and closure process development subcontract.

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The requirements to lift the stop-work order for the seven remaining activities should be completed by June 1987.

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)--Section 7.0, "Control of Purchased Materials, Equipment and Services," of the SNL quality assurance program plan (QAPP) was submitted to WMPO for approval. Approval of this section will complete the SNL QAPP and remove the stop-work order in January 1987. Procedures for "Experiment and Equipment Test Procedure Requirements" and "Data Records Management System Interaction" were approved for issue. Assignment of quality assurance levels is complete.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)--Sixteen of twenty-two corrective actions for audit findings have been accepted by WMPO. The remaining six were resolved at a USGS and WMPO meeting on December 5, but still need formal submittal from USGS. SIPs are still required for 38 current activities. Indoctrination and training on the USGS QAPP is ongoing. It should be completed by the end of January 1987. All requirements to lift the stop-work order should be met by March or April 1987.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)--QA levels for nine tasks have been approved by WMPO and work is authorized to proceed. QALAs for nine other tasks are at WMPO for review, leaving one QALA still to be submitted. The SAIC stop-work order for the remaining requirements should be lifted by February 1987.

Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company, Inc. (REECo)--Indoctrination and training on the REECo QAPP is in progress. When this training is completed, as well as the training of technical inspectors, the requirements to lift the stop-work order will be completed.

#### B. Site Characterization Plan

##### Accomplishments:

Sections 8.3.1.4 and 8.3.1.5 were submitted to production on December 12.

The section 8.3.5 review by the Project Overview Committee (POC) was completed December 12.

##### Status of ongoing activities

Revisions to Chapters 1, 3, 5, and 6, based on POC comments, are being finalized.

Work is continuing on the waste package strategy document, which is not expected to have a major impact on Chapter 7. A limited POC review of this chapter took place this week. Related sections of Chapter 8 will be reviewed by the POC next week.

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Revisions are underway to Sections 8.1.8.2, 8.3.2, 8.3.3, and 8.3.5.

Sections 8.4 and 8.7 are on hold pending approval of the white paper. These sections may not be revised and reviewed by the POC in time for inclusion in the draft SCP in January, 1987.

Work is continuing on schedules and milestones, Section 8.5. The section is not mature enough for POC review.

Revisions to 8.6, based on POC review, are underway.

#### Meetings

POC subcommittees met to review the following material:

Higher level findings on December 10-11.

Climate, ground-water travel time, and preclosure hydrology on December 9-10.

Pre- and postclosure rock characteristics on December 9-10.

Geochemistry, erosion, human interference, and surface characteristics on December 8-9.

Geohydrology and meteorology on December 8-9.

Pre- and postclosure tectonics on December 11-12.

Performance assessment program on December 11-12.

#### C. Core Sample Management

Completion of the Action Memorandum and enclosures still awaits the cost estimates from REEC Co on renovating the warehouses in Area 25 of the Nevada Test Site (NTS). REEC Co has now indicated that these cost estimates will be completed December 24, 1986. Based on this date, a meeting with the WMPO is scheduled for January 12, 1987, to present a briefing on the sample management facility.

#### D. Waste Package Strategy Document

The Waste Package Strategy Document is due from LLNL December 24, 1986. SAIC personnel completed a review of the waste package strategy document.

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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. OGR action delayed due to higher priority issues (12/16/87 update).	03/27/86
2. Draft NNWSI Project Charter sent to Cassella on June 26 to obtain necessary signatures from Headquarters personnel. (86-1573)	Due July 17, 1986. Charter to be discussed with Director (12/16/87 update).	07/03/86
3. Letter to Knight dated August 6 requested comments by August 27 on proposed technical and Appendix 7 meetings with NRC and a proposed schedule. (86-2019)	Due August 27, 1986 OGR closing policy review (12/16/86 update).	08/21/86
4. 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.	10/31/86
5. 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)	Due November 28, 1986. Briefing postponed to January 1987 (12/16/86 update).	10/24/86

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Issue	Status	First Report Date
6. Letter to Alexander requests level of effort support by Argonne National Laboratory in support of NNWSI Project SCP reference verification task as defined in an enclosed outline. (87-295)	Due November 6, 1986.	10/31/86
7. 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
8. Letter to Alexander dated November 21, requests additional clarification of Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR) definition of ongoing and planned site characterization activities; especially requests assistance in categorizing enclosed examples. (87-489)	Due December 12, 1986.	11/28/86
9. Letter to Knight on December 2 comments on proposed interactions and technical meetings with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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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## II. Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

The Los Alamos report "Problematic Mineral Deposits in Faults Near Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Compared with Possible Analogs" (Milestone R319), was submitted to WMPO for policy review.

The LLNL report entitled "Experimental Study of the Dissolution of Spent Fuel at 85 C Natural Ground Water" was sent to WMPO for policy review. This report completes Milestone P001. The report describes and presents the results from the first six-month cycle of semi-static tests using pressurized water reactor spent fuel rod segments and NNWSI Project reference J-13 well water in sealed stainless steel vessels.

Two SNL reports, "Modification of Rock Mass Permeability in the Zone Surrounding a Shaft in Fractured, Welded Tuff" (Milestone R037) and "Feasibility Evaluation for Using Electric Drive for Transporting Nuclear Waste Underground," (Milestone P131), were submitted to WMPO for policy review.

Lars Werme of SKB Sweden visited LLNL on December 8 and 9 to discuss issues related to waste container materials and waste form characterization.

Stephen Kale, Ed Kay, James Knight, Ralph Stein, Thomas Issacs, Bennett Easterline, and Samuel Rouso from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters visited the G-Tunnel underground facility on December 8, 1986.

Representatives of the NRC met with representatives of SNL; Bechtel National, Inc; Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade, and Douglas; and DOE Nevada in Albuquerque on December 12. They discussed design-related issues connected with the NNWSI Project.

Fenix & Scisson issued a revised Project Control Manual, including the Project Management Plan and Design Control Procedures.

Los Alamos published the report entitled "Fran Ridge Horizontal Coring Summary Report, Hole UE-25h#1, Yucca Mountain Area, Nye County, Nevada" (LA-10859)-MS).

The Office of Geologic Repositories held a meeting of the Institutional Socioeconomic Coordinating Groups in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 9-11. Those attending took part in a tour of Yucca Mountain and the Nevada Test Site.

SAIC sent the draft Environmental Compliance Plan to WMPO for review. After WMPO review, a revised plan will be sent to DOE/HQ for review on December 19, 1986.

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SAIC also sent the first quarterly meteorological monitoring data report to WMPO for review.

WMPO personnel completed a review of the 1987 Nevada state grant proposal in light of the guidelines set down by the 9th Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals.

### III. Upcoming Events

#### A. Coordination Group Meetings

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1.	Tuesday-Wednesday, January 13-14	Geosciences Coordi- nation Group	Washington, D.C.	M. Blanchard, WMPO
2.	Tuesday-Thursday, January 20-22	Environmental Coordi- nation Group	Las Vegas	B. Jankus, WMPO
3.	Thursday-Friday, January 29-30	Quality Assurance Coordination Group	Las Vegas	J. Blaylock, WMPO

#### B. HQ Meetings

1.	Tuesday-Wednesday, January 6-7	QA Working Group	Atlanta, GA	J. Blaylock, WMPO
2.	Tuesday-Wednesday, January 6-7	Spent Fuel Working Group	Washington, D.C.	L. Skousen, WMPO

#### C. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings

1.	Tuesday, January 6	Sample Overview Committee Meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
2.	Friday, January 9	Exploratory shaft facility design meeting	Las Vegas	D. Irby, WMPO
3.	Tuesday, January 13	DOE/NV Manager's Meeting	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
4.	Tuesday-Wednesday, January 20-21	PM-TPO Meeting	Las Vegas	J. Fiore, SAIC



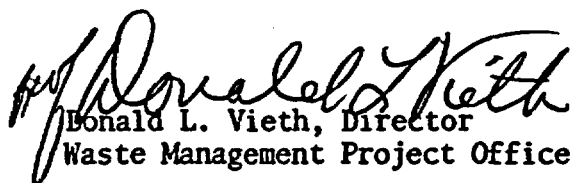
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Stephen H. Kale

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
<u>D. State and Public Interaction</u>			
1. Tuesday-Wednesday, January 6-7	EEI visit to NV	Las Vegas	D. Vieth, WMPO
<u>E. NRC Interaction</u>			
None to report.			

WMPO:WRD-629

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

cc:

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Vincent Gong, REECo, Mercury, NTS  
D. T. Oakley, LANL, Los Alamos, NM  
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