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MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management

FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. OR-NNWSI *ATP*

SUBJECT: NNWSI Site Report for Weeks of April 22 and 29,
and May 6 and 13.

I. The week of April 22 was spent in Silver Spring. This was a very busy and, I believe, a very fruitful week. The Davis briefing went well from my viewpoint and I feel "comfortable" with our participation. Mr. Davis seemed genuinely interested in what we had to say. Meetings were held with ELD and members of the Geotechnical and Engineering Branches. Discussions were held with Hub Miller and John Greeves.

On the negative side, I still have the impression that most staff members aren't aware of the fact that this office can be a help to them. I hope that time and repeated reminders will rectify this situation.

II. John Linehan was in Las Vegas on May 1 and 2. He stopped over on his way home from San Francisco. He was tied up the week I was in Silver Spring so Hub Miller made it possible for Linehan to come to Las Vegas. On the first, we met with Don Vieth, Jerry Szymanski, Mike Voegele, and Mike Giora of the NNWSI. We discussed future workshops and the Project in general. The visit was very successful. The NNWSI staff were pleased to meet Linehan and feel that NRC-DOE cooperation at the project level will continue as before.

On the second we visited the Test Site. We went to the forward area and saw Sedan Crater, Ranier Mesa and "G" tunnel. We had lunch in the Area 12 cafeteria and then spent the afternoon at Yucca Mountain. We visited drill hole wash, the exploratory shaft location and went on top of Yucca Mountain. The view was great, as always.

III. There is a developing need for specific criteria for such subjects as "vibratory ground motion" and definitions for

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"category 1 structures" and "capable fault" as applied specifically to the surface facilities at a repository. This need is demonstrated by the fact that discussions on these, and other topics use power plant criteria (10 CFR 100 App. A, etc.). An example are the comments by John Bell, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, on the tectonics section of the NNWSI EA.

IV. On May 13, there was a meeting between Jim Devine and Bill Dudley, USGS; and Don Vieth. The topic of discussion was the level of support that the USGS is willing to give to the NNWSI. As reported in the May 20 NNWSI weekly report, Devine is revising his letter to the project. The next meeting will be in Reston, Va., on June 4.

V. The State of Nevada's comments on the NNWSI EA were received in Las Vegas 2 weeks ago. The package contains 1,000 pages, part double-spaced and part single-spaced. It's difficult to tell how thick the final bound version will be. I received a copy of the tectonic comments and sent a copy to Sylvie Olney last week. Cathy Russell has requested of Bob Loux that a full copy of the comments be sent to Silver Spring.

VI. The April TPO-Project Management Meeting was held on April 24 and 25. Since I was in Silver Spring, I couldn't attend. I have obtained copies of the handouts and they are attached to this report.

VII. On May 7 I attended a meeting of the committee that Uel Clanton has set up to pass on drill hole core release for testing. It is important for the NRC to assess future needs for core as early as possible. Also, any plans for use of rock from the exploratory shaft should be completed as soon as possible so that our needs can be accommodated. Uel Clanton needs to know our requirements for amount (pounds, tons?) and size of individual pieces. NNWSI is planning to fill 55-gallon drums with exploratory shaft material to satisfy the requests of all users.