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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director  
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative  
DATE: November 20, 1986  
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report  
received in this office, i.e., for week ending  
November 14, 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

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NOV 18 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 NOVEMBER 14, 1986

### I. Critical Items Status

#### Stop Work Order

The following summaries give the status of activities in response to the stop-work orders for Project participants.

U.S Geological Survey (USGS)--Of the 22 corrective actions submitted to and reviewed by the Waste Management Project Office (WMPO), 16 were accepted.

WMPO accepted the USGS Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) on October 27, 1986. Training on the QAPP is scheduled to begin in the second half of November 1986. Limited training on how to prepare scientific investigation planning (SIP) documents was initiated. No USGS SIP documentation has been formally submitted to WMPO, but WMPO has provided comments on a draft that will serve as the prototype SIP documentation. The estimated number of SIP documentations requiring WMPO approval is 45.

WMPO and USGS personnel met on November 6 and 7, 1986, to discuss open items. The expected date on removal of the stop-work order is February or March 1987.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)--Quality Assurance level assignments (QALAs) for nine tasks have been approved by WMPO. QALAs for ten tasks need to be resubmitted. Three SIP documentations are associated with these tasks. The stop-work order has been lifted for the nine approved tasks and should be lifted for the remaining ten tasks by December 1986.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos)--Thirteen QALAs have been approved by WMPO releasing all Los Alamos work budgeted for the current fiscal year (FY) from the stop-work order. WMPO has completed a review of the QA levels assigned to items in the exploratory shaft facility and requested a meeting with Los Alamos on November 13, 1986, to discuss comments. The SIP documentation for groundwater chemistry will not be submitted at this time since the task is not budgeted for the current FY.

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Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)--Three QALAs for performance assessment, geochemical modeling code EQ3/6, and the exploratory shaft have been approved by WMPO. LLNL is prepared a submittal schedule for the remaining seven SIP documentations. The expected date for lifting of the stop-work order for the remaining seven is November 1986. Changes in the status of the incomplete SIP documentation are as follows: an internal draft for the waste package environment is undergoing revision after technical review; a draft for integrated testing is due for internal review on February 14, 1987; and a draft for waste package design is in internal review and due to the WMPO on November 14, 1986.

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)--WMPO has accepted all of the SNL QAPP except for Sections 17 and 18. Comments and proposed resolutions were agreed to informally and Section 17 was resubmitted. Section 7 remains to be submitted to WMPO. Assignment of QA levels is complete and the stop-work order should be lifted in November 1986.

Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company (REECo)--All proposed corrective actions have been accepted by WMPO and the REECo QAPP was approved on October 17, 1986. Training of technical inspectors is complete and verified by a WMPO surveillance. Training of personnel on the approved QAPP should be completed soon and the stop-work order should be completely lifted in December 1986.

#### Waste Package Strategy Document

LLNL staff members met with U.S. Department of Energy/Headquarters' (DOE/HQ) staff on November 6 and 7. They reached agreement on revisions to the document and the revisions will be made after the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) is complete.

#### Site Characterization Plan

At the direction of DOE/HQ the NNWSI Project is now assuming an April 1, 1987, date for submittal of the SCP to the printer and has reassessed a shorter review schedule. Permanent Internal Review Committee (PIRC) revisions must now be completed by December 15. The new Project-Overview Committee (POC) and PIRC 15 (integration and consistency) reviews will begin immediately with available text. A review of PIRC progress is as follows:

PIRC 1--Sections 1.0-1.6 are ready for POC review; help has been requested from the USGS in revising Section 1.7 (Mineral/Hydrocarbon Resources); work is continuing on preparation of Issue Resolution Strategies for Section 8.3.

PIRC 2--Chapter 2 is ready for POC review; draft issue resolution strategies (IRS) for pre- and postclosure rock characteristics have been completed and will be distributed for review as soon as possible. A review meeting is scheduled for November 21 to discuss IRSs.

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PIRC 3--Section 3.5 is ready for POC review; revisions to Section 3.6 will be completed by November 21 and Section 3.9 by December 1; information needs from Section 8.3 should be available by mid-November.

PIRC 4--Chapter 4 is ready for POC review; revisions to Section 8.3.1.3 are expected to be distributed for review by November 10. A PIRC 4 meeting to discuss revisions to the information needs and the IRS for Issue 1.14 is scheduled November 21-22.

PIRC 5--Work is continuing on comment resolution and text revisions to Chapter 5; a consolidated markup is expected to be completed by late November or early December.

PIRC 6--Sections 6.0-6.3 are ready for PIRC review; most sections of 8.3 are ready for PIRC 15 review. Work is continuing on the consolidated markup of Section 6.4 and completion of Section 8.3.2.5.

PIRC 7--Work on sections of 8.3 are on hold pending development of the waste package strategy document at DOE/HQ; PIRC comments received on Chapter 7 are being incorporated into the text--however, the results of the ongoing DOE/HQ meetings on strategy may invoke additional changes.

PIRC 8--PIRC 8 material is currently being reviewed by PIRC members. A comment response meeting is scheduled for November 17-19.

PIRC 9--Reference verification on Chapter 2 is nearly complete. Chapters 1 and 4 are in progress.

PIRC 10--Revisions to Section 8.4 are on hold until the "White Paper"/ Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR) position is resolved.

PIRC 11--A new group has been formed to pull together the schedules section; an informal, introductory meeting of this group was held November 4 to discuss the strategy for completing Section 8.5.

PIRC 12--Issues 1.1 and 1.6 are being revised and a consolidated markup is expected by November 21.

PIRC 13--Text revisions for the higher level findings issues are expected to be completed next week. The second review meeting was cancelled because the material is ready for PIRC 15 and POC review.

PIRC 14--Text for Sections 8.1 and 8.2 are being written and may be available for review by DOE/HQ staff the week of November 17.

PIRC 15--PIRC membership was approved by the Technical Project Officers (TPOs) and PIRC 15 reviews are to begin next week. A kick-off meeting is scheduled to take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 13-14.

PIRC 16--Chapter 1 is currently being reviewed.

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PIRC 17--PIRC 17 material is currently being reviewed. DOE/HQ has requested that the Project structure Section 8.3 be consistent with the DOE/Richland 8.6, which may be inconsistent with the NNWSI Project annotated outline for 8.6. A comment response meeting is scheduled for November 17-18.

#### Core Sample Management

A new detailed scheduling network for the development and implementation of the Sample Management Facility (SMF) was completed, illustrating the realistic impacts of construction and procurement time on the schedule. The "Activity work plan for NNWSI Project Core and Sample Curation" was completed in draft form and circulated for internal SAIC review.

The draft procedure for "Collection, labeling, and handling of NNWSI Project drill site samples" is completed.

Cost estimates for developing warehouses 1 and 2 in Area 25 for the SMF have not been received from REECO. SCP efforts are beginning to impact SMF activities and will cause delay in this task.

#### **I-A. Project Manager's Concerns**

A letter dated November 4 to Isaacs requests a breakdown of the full-time equivalents (FTEs) shown in the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) budget by Project office and FY and highlights a potential problem in that the FY 87 Program Direction Budget covers only 27.9 FTEs for WMPO staff when 40 FTEs were agreed upon (87-373)

A letter dated November 5 to Gale requests a clear statement as to whether or not the State of Nevada is required to comply with the Office of Management and Budget regulations regarding information collection before WMPO can review Nevada's request for calendar year 1987. (87-395)

A letter dated November 10 to Newton requests clarification of three areas in the minutes of the July 23-24 GACG meeting: 1) phasing of NQA-1 1986 into Project QA plans; 2) interpretation of QA administrative procedures; and 3) references to the State and tribes and NRC participating on DOE audits. (87-404)

A letter dated November 12 to Stein requests OGR staff support for the SCP POC, specifically three individuals for particular assignments. The letter indicates that WMPO will assume this request is granted unless an immediate response to the contrary is received. (87-417)

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

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Issue	Status	First Report Date
1. Letter to Knight dated February 13 asks for guidance on how to address the difference between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) definition of the "engineered barrier" and the Program's baseline position. (86-714)	Due March 6, 1986.	02/20/86
2. Letter to Knight dated March 25 requests HQ help in obtaining available NRC information regarding criteria, restrictions, and analyses relating to overflight of licensed facilities by aircraft. (86-958)	Due May 6, 1986.	03/27/86
3. Draft NNWSI Project Charter sent to Cassella on June 26 to obtain necessary signatures from headquarters personnel. (86-1573)	Due July 17, 1986.	07/03/86
4. 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.	08/21/86
5. 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

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
6. Letter sent on September 9 to Alexander requests review and comment on the Project's SCP Permanent Internal Review Committee (PIRC) process. (86-2250)	Due September 30, 1986.	09/18/86
7. 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) Briefing postponed to end of November.	Due November 28, 1986.	10/24/86
8. Letter to Alexander requests level of effort support for 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
9. A letter to Roth dated October 23 requests that the Source Selection Official authority be delegated to T.R. Clark for the competitive selection of an architect/engineer contractor for the prospective Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository. (87-296)	Due November 13, 1986.	10/31/86

Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

SNL forwarded the major part of the SCP/Conceptual Design Report (CDR) to DOE/HQ and WMPO on November 8, 1986. This package contains the design description (Chapters 1-5) and supporting appendices and will provide the information for the upcoming HQ review on November 19 and 20, 1986.

SAIC delivered the Social Impact Assessment Report (Milestone R552) to WMPO for policy review.

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WMPO and SAIC staff took part in a field trip organized by the Pacific Cell of Friends of the Pleistocene and examined evidence of Quaternary Tectonics in Death Valley, CA. They also examined possible evidence of Quaternary and Tertiary Faulting near Bare Mountain, Yucca Mountain, and Busted Butte with USGS and Nevada Bureau of Mines geologists. In addition, WMPO and SAIC representatives visited the site of the 1932 Cedar Mountain earthquake north of Tonopah, examined the scarps and other features resulting from the event, and discussed these issues with geologists from the USGS and the Nevada Bureau of Mines.

### III. Upcoming Events

#### A. Coordination Group Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1. Monday, November 17	Transportation Coordination Group	Columbus, Ohio	B. Barner, WMPO
2. Tuesday, December 9	Institutional and Socioeconomic Coordination Group	Las Vegas	E. Lundgaard, WMPO

#### B. HQ Meetings

1. Monday-Tuesday, December 8-9	Headquarters review (Kale, Isaacs visit)	Las Vegas	D. Vieth, WMPO
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#### C. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings

1. Tuesday, November 18	DOE/NV Managers' Meeting	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
2. Wednesday-Friday, November 19-21	SEMP meeting	Los Alamos New Mexico	L. Skousen, WMPO
3. Tuesday, November 25	SOC Meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
4. Tuesday, December 2	SOC meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
5. Wednesday-Thursday, December 10-11	PM-TPO meeting	Las Vegas	J. Fiore, SAIC



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**D. State and Public Interaction**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1. Monday, November 17	Nevada Nuclear Waste Committee Meeting	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO

**E. NRC Interaction**

1. Tuesday-Wednesday, November 18-19	DOE/NRC Waste Package Meeting (tentative)	Las Vegas	J. Szymanski, WMPO
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WMPO:WRD-394



Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

**cc:**

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