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PROJECT WM-11/SMC/83/03/31/0

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PROJECT WM-11

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

THRU: Hubert J. Miller, Chief
High-Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management

WM Record File
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FROM: Seth M. Coplan
High-Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management

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SUBJECT: OPS PLAN COMMITMENT 311212A

Attached is a status report that summarizes preparations for the
NNWSI SCP review. The report satisfies OPS Plan Commitment 311212A due
March 31, 1983.

"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY"

Seth M. Coplan
High-Level Waste Technical
Development Branch
Division of Waste Management

Attachment:
As stated

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PREPARATION FOR NNWSI SCP REVIEW
STATUS REPORT
MARCH 31, 1983

Background

This report summarizes the technical and administrative preparations and preliminary plans for SCP review of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations (NNWSI) SCP. It satisfies OPS Plan Commitment 311212A, "Complete Preparation for SCR Review - Brief Division Director," due on March 31, 1983.

Preparations

To date, technical and administrative preparations as well as preliminary SCP review plans have been made. The technical preparations include NRC staff visits to the Yucca Mountain site on several occasions starting in February 1981. These visits were combined with technical meetings of broad scope. The trips and meetings were documented in the trip reports of May 1981, December 1981 and August 1982. We have also had somewhat less formal contact with DOE on a continuing basis. These contacts have allowed for discussion of such topics as method of exploratory shaft construction (drill and blast versus blind boring) and minimum information requirements for the SCR. We also receive and routinely review the technical reports published by the NNWSI.

Based on these activities, a preliminary, systematic effort was made to identify the issues for the Yucca Mountain site. The resultant list of issues was transmitted to DOE in August 1982. This transmittal was intended to focus further dialogue between the NRC and DOE technical staffs. In January 1983, technical meetings were held with DOE to discuss these issues and planned approaches to their resolution in the areas of geochemistry (January 12-14), hydrogeology (January 18-20), and design (January 24-26).

Regarding administrative preparation, a review team was established in December 1981. Team members include WMHT, WMHL, and WMPI staff needed to conduct reviews and address technical problems concerning groundwater flow, waste form/waste package, retardation, repository design, geology/geologic stability, and institutional/NEPA problems. In July 1982, the original team was supplemented by staff from RES.

Arrangements have been made with WMPI to provide several important support services including the management of state and tribal interactions, logging of correspondence and maintenance of the project library. The project library routinely receives NNWSI technical reports

as they are issued by DOE. In October 1982, measures were taken that assure completeness of the library.

Preliminary plans include the following efforts:

- o Documentation of January 1983 workshops will be completed by April 15, 1983. Documentation will include a summary of observations, items for future discussion, and information requests signed by DOE and NRC representatives, the meeting agenda, the list of attendees, and a list that identifies any data examined by NRC during the course of the workshop.
- o Workshops will be held regarding waste form/waste package and geology/geologic stability (firm dates will be established by April 30).
- o Based on the above, a revised issues list will be prepared for each technical area and issued in the form of a Site Technical Position one month after completion of the last workshop.
- o Single issue technical meetings will be held as appropriate. For example:
 - Saturated zone hydrology
 - Unsaturated zone hydrology
 - Extent of the disturbed zone
 - Shaft sealing
 - Stability of openings
 - Performance requirements for engineered barriers
- o Revise Standard Review Plan by June 30, 1983.

Several events have delayed completion of SCP review preparation. It was intended that the BWIP review would provide a learning experience that would be drawn on in future reviews. The BWIP SCA was just recently completed so that there has been little time to assimilate the experience. A review plan was developed for BWIP SCR review and was last revised in November 1982. During the actual SCR review, many departures from the review plan were found to be appropriate. The standard review plan will be revised to reflect these departures. In addition, we will need to scrutinize the review plan in light of the BWIP experience to identify and resolve problem areas that can be avoided in future reviews.

The completion date for OPS plan commitment 311212A was originally established for March 31, 1983, in anticipation of receiving the NNWSI SCP in June of 1983. Because of the impact of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, DOE has delayed submittal of the NNWSI SCP until September 1983. Therefore, there has not been the original urgency to complete the preparations for NRC SCP review by March 1983. In addition, the BWIP review impacted efforts on the NNWSI project.

Tentative Review Plans

As noted above, preparation of the standard review plan for NNWSI SCP review will be completed by June 30, 1983 after taking full advantage of the BWIP experience. Nevertheless, some early, as yet, tentative thoughts as to what the SRP might include are the following:

- o As appropriate, develop Site Technical Positions within each topic review group. The purpose of these technical positions will be to document and analyse the basic technical issues, relate these issues to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, 10 CFR 60, Reg. Guide 4.17 and 40 CFR Part 191, identify acceptable approaches for issue resolution, document the minimum information needed to resolve these issues, or document methods for data collection. These technical positions should provide a solid framework from which the staff can complete a timely and detailed review of the NNWSI SCP.
- o Tentative SCP Review Milestones and Schedule

<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
0	Receive SCP
4	Detailed comments complete
5	Point papers on key issues distributed to all groups
6	Meeting - agree on issues to be highlighted in SCA
7	Rough Key-Word drafts of SCA Chapters to PM
8	PM Comments to GC's
9	1 st draft to PM