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WM Record File

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WM Project

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

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

PTP

Subject: NNWSI Site Report for Weeks of July 29 & August 5,
12, and 19, 1985

I. On July 30, Sam Singer, SAIC QA called to alert me to the annual audit of LANL to be held on August 5 through 8. This was very short notice but I was able to make the necessary arrangements to attend.

II. The LANL QA audit began on August 5, with a meeting with Les Gage, DOE-Albuquerque QA, at the DOE Albuquerque office. Gage was to act as lead auditor. The general ground rules of this audit were discussed. Gage stated that the Albuquerque group were going to commute between Albuquerque and Los Alamos daily. They would arrive about 9:30 a.m. and leave at 4:30 p.m.

In the afternoon the WMPO audit team, and myself, drove to Los Alamos.

The audit lasted all day on the 6th and 7th and the morning of the 8th. The close-out meeting was held the afternoon of the 8th. The WMPO audit team returned to Las Vegas on the evening of the 8th.

In general, attitudes towards QA seem to have improved significantly over the last year. A significant problem in this audit occurred because the audit team couldn't meet with the lead auditor (Les Gage) in the evenings. This made coordination within the audit team difficult. Audit team caucus' were brief because it was necessary to hold the meetings during working hours.

I have discussed the details of the audit with Jim Kennedy and Dale Hedges.

III. Linda Kovach, WMGT, has requested an appendix 7 meeting between the NRC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory personnel under contract to the NRC and LANL personnel working on sorption (Kim Thomas). I have contacted Don Oakley, LANL TPO, Jerry De Poorter

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and Kim Thomas and there is no objection to having such a meeting.

I have spoken to Jerry Szymanski, DOE-WMPO, and the project office has no objection. However, Szymanski asked for a letter setting forth the objective of the meeting, proposed dates and NRC participants. After conferring with Dr. Kovach, I will write the letter and firm up the meeting.

IV King Stablien asked me to obtain the procedures under which drill core is collected, transported, logged, and stored in the USGS core library. The problem, however, is more complex than just obtaining a stack of procedures. I've discussed the problem with Dr. Stablein and suggested that Dale Hedges and John Trapp come to Las Vegas to review the problem. Uel Clanton, DOE-WMPO, is charged with auditing the core library and is willing to meet with the NRC to discuss this problem.

V. Mr. John Davis, Director, NMSS arrived in Las Vegas on the evening of August 19. On the 20th Mr. Davis addressed the first meeting of the expanded State of Nevada Legislature's Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste in Nevada. Also addressing the committee were Ben Rusche, DOE; Don Vieth, DOE; a local representative of the EPA; Bob Loux, State of Nevada; Julie Jordan, National Conference of State Legislatures; and several members of local government.

Mr. Davis' remarks were well received by the committee. In general, the remarks by speakers were non-controversial and of a nature to inform the committee of the function of the organization that the speaker represented.

A copy of Mr. Rusche's remarks is enclosed.

On Wednesday, the 20th, Don Vieth and Jerry Szymanski escorted Mr. Davis and myself to the Nevada Test Site. We visited Yucca Mountain, where Mr. Davis heard a brief discussion of the geology of the area and the history of the investigation. We then visited "T" tunnel, a DOD facility at Ranier Mesa and the rock mechanics test development activities in "G" tunnel. The tour ended with a visit to the USGS core library at Mercury.

VI. On the 21st Uel Clanton, DOE-WMPO and I visited trench 14 on the west side of Exile Hill. Trench 14 cuts across the Bow Ridge fault and is the trench where the zone of secondary mineralization in the fault zone was recognized by the NRC during the September 1984 geology workshop.

The Trench has since been deepened and more area of the mineralized zone has been exposed. I took some photographs of the exposure and collected some samples. I will have the photo's with

me when I am in Silver Spring the week of September 3.

VII. There will be no Project Manager-TPD meeting in Las Vegas in August.

VIII. The NRC Las Vegas office will be closed from August 27 to September 10. I will be in Silver Spring on September 3, 4, 5, and 6.