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WM Project 11

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

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(Return to WM, 623-SS) 23

September 25, 1985

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

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

Subject: DOE Reports & Newspaper Clippings

Enclosed are DOE weekly reports for NNWSI for the weeks of:  
August 22, 29; September 5, and 12, 1985

Also enclosed is the NNWSI monthly report for July, 1985.

Current newspaper clippings are also enclosed herewith.

ptp/brm  
enc.

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PDR WASTE  
WM-11 PDR

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# Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

P. O. Box 14100

Las Vegas, NV 89114-4100

rec'd w/lt. dtd. 9/25/85  
102  
DoE Rpts. & Newspaper  
Clipping

AUG 27 1985

W. J. Purcell, Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ (RW-20),  
FORSTL

## NNWSI PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 1985

### I. Issues Requiring Involvement of HQ or Other Projects

#### A. New Issues:

None to report.

#### B. Previously Reported Issues:

	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
1.	Regarding controlled copy of NNWSI Project Administrative Procedures Manual; Purcell needs to sign and return document transmittal form to sender.	Require transmittal form by no later than September 3.	7/24/85
2.	Scope and schedule for EA Issues Resolution Meetings with State and NRC.	Letter sent to Purcell on 7/26/85.	7/26/85
3.	Letter to Rusche dated March 4 requesting consideration for the continued use of E-MAD on a cost-sharing basis.	Open	8/7/85
4.	Letter to Rusche dated April 16 requesting program office approval for reprinting three "Fact Sheets."	Open	8/7/85
5.	Letter dated July 30 requested that Burton acknowledge receipt of EA comment listing and confirm that comments will be handled by HQ.	Open	8/22/85

AUG 27 1985

6. Letter dated July 31 to Purcell requested approval of proposed corrective actions to QA audit findings and observations. Open 8/22/85

II. Major Internal Concerns

None to report.

III. Significant Accomplishments (SA)/Information Items (II)

SA

The final NNWSI Project Plan was submitted to Bill Purcell on August 20 for approval. The Plan has been approved by Don Vieth and Tom Clark.

II

Ben Rusche and Don Vieth made presentations to the Nevada Legislative Study Committee on High-level Nuclear Waste on August 20. John Davis, Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, made a presentation to the Committee. The meeting was open to the public. The newspapers said thirty people attended.

On August 21, John Davis was taken on a tour of the NTS by Don Vieth. Paul Prestholt, the Nevada on-site representative for the NRC, also participated in the tour. The tour included Yucca Mountain, T-Tunnel, G-Tunnel, and the USGS Core Library.

Vern Witherill, Chief of the Engineering and Technology Development Branch, was selected for a new position as Director of the Nevada Test Site Office (NTSO). Vern will stay involved in the NNWSI Project on an intermittent basis through September.

WMPO met with the Lawrence Livermore Waste Package staff to discuss the NRC workshop comments and the view of the Materials Research Bureau. A tentative course of action to resolve concerns of both groups was developed. The schedule for implementing effort to resolve the concerns is being developed.

IV. Upcoming Events

1. Coordination Group Meetings

None to report.

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2. HQ Meetings

- o Tuesday-Friday, August 20-23: EA Chapter 6 Findings Meeting, HQ.

3. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings

- o Friday, August 23: SAIC Monthly Status Review Meeting, Las Vegas
- o Monday, August 26: PM-TPO Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- o Monday, August 26: SCP Management Group, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday-Friday, August 29-30: ESTP Committee Meeting, Las Vegas.
- o Tuesday, September 3: ESF Status meeting, NTS (tentative); SOC Meeting, NTS.
- o Wednesday-Friday, September 4-6: USGS QA Audit, Menlo Park, CA
- o Thursday, September 19: SAIC Network Planning Review, Las Vegas

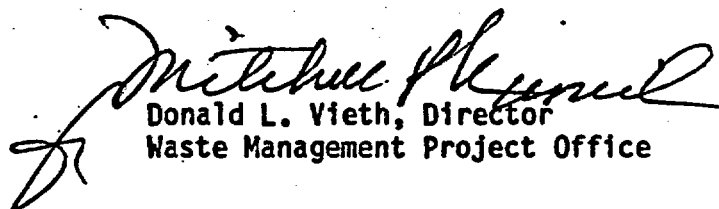
4. State and Public Interaction

- o Thursday, August 22: U.S. Senator Chic Hecht tour of NTS.
- o Friday, August 23: Materials Science Symposium talk by Don Vieth, Reno.
- o Monday-Friday, September 2-6: Don Vieth - USNCTT Meeting, Prague.
- o Thursday, September 19: Bunkerville Town Meeting

5. NRC Interaction

- o Tuesday-Wednesday, August 27-28: ESF Design NRC Meeting.
- o Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17: ESTP NRC Meeting.
- o Monday-Thursday, September 23-26: Hydrology/Geochemistry NRC Meeting.
- o Tuesday-Friday, October 1-4: Performance Assessment Plan NRC Meeting.

WMPO:DLV-1674

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

AUG 27 1995

W. J. Purcell

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cc:

Allen Benson, DOE/HQ (RW-25), FORSTL  
R. J. Blaney, DOE/HQ (RW-22), FORSTL  
C. R. Cooley, DOE/HQ (RW-24), FORSTL  
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J. H. Fiore, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV  
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P. T. Prestholt, NRC/Las Vegas, NV  
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Donald Schweitzer, BNL, Upton, NY



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Nevada Operations Office

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AUG 30 1985

W. J. Purcell, Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ (RW-20),  
FORSTL

### NNWSI PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1985

#### I. Issues Requiring Involvement of HQ or Other Projects

##### A. New Issues:

None to report.

##### B. Previously Reported Issues:

Issue	Status	First Report Date
1. Scope and schedule for EA Issues Resolution Meetings with State and NRC.	Letter sent to Purcell on 7/26/85.	7/26/85
2. Letter to Rusche dated March 4 requesting consideration for the continued use of E-MAD on a cost-sharing basis.	Passed on to Hilley for action item will be deleted.	8/7/85
3. Letter to Rusche dated April 16 requesting program office approval for reprinting three "Fact Sheets."	Are in concurrence chain. Item will be deleted.	8/7/85
4. Letter dated July 30 requested that Burton acknowledge receipt of EA comment listing and confirm that comments will be handled by HQ.	Open	8/22/85

AUG 30 1985

W. J. Purcell

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5. Letter dated July 31 to Purcell requested approval of proposed corrective actions to QA audit findings and observations. Open 8/22/85

**II. Major Internal Concerns**

None to report.

**III. Significant Accomplishments (SA)/Information Items (II)**

**SA**

The Exploratory Shaft Design meeting was held with the NRC on August 27 and 28 in Gaithersburg.

**II**

Work proceeding on the MRS-Repository interface Task 2 charter. The report should be finalized and approved by September 13 for integration into Task 5.

**IV. Upcoming Events**

**1. Coordination Group Meetings**

None to report.

**2. HQ Meetings**

**3. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings**

- o Thursday-Friday, August 29-30: ESTP Committee Meeting, Las Vegas.
- o Wednesday-Friday, September 4-6: USGS QA Audit, Menlo Park, CA
- o Tuesday, September 10: ESF Status meeting, NTS (tentative).  
Tuesday, September 10: SOC Meeting, NTS.
- o Wednesday, September 11: ES HQ-Comment Resolution Meeting, NTS.
- o Wednesday, September 11: SCP Chapter 4 Internal Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday-Friday, September 12-13: HQ Chapter 2 Review, D.C.

AUG 30 1985

W. J. Purcell

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- o Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17: Chapter 8.3.5 Internal Review, Las Vegas.
- o Tuesday, September 17: DOE/NV Management Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, September 19: SAIC Network Planning Review, Las Vegas
- o Wednesday-Thursday, October 2-3: PM-TPO Meeting, Las Vegas

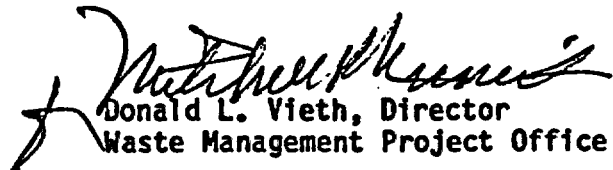
4. State and Public Interaction

- o Monday-Friday, September 2-6: Don Vieth - USNCTT Meeting, Prague.
- o Thursday, September 12: Nevada Public Health Association Speech (Witherill)
- o Thursday, September 19: Bunkerville Town Meeting

5. NRC Interaction

- o Monday-Thursday, September 23-26: Hydrology/Geochemistry NRC Meeting.
- o Tuesday-Friday, October 1-4: Performance Assessment Plan NRC Meeting.

WMPO:DLV-1703

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office



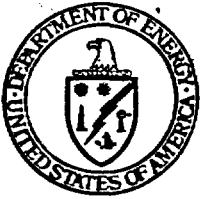
AUG 30 1985

W. J. Purcell

-4-

cc:

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C. R. Cooley, DOE/HQ (RW-24), FORSTL  
M. W. Frei, DOE/HQ (RW-23), FORSTL  
V. J. Cassella, DOE/HQ (RW-22), FORSTL  
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W. S. Twenhofel, SAIC, Lakewood, CO  
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## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

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SEP 09 1985

W. J. Purcell, Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ (RW-20),  
FORSTL

### NNWSI PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1985

#### I. Issues Requiring Involvement of HQ or Other Projects

##### A. New Issues:

Due to added requirements from the recent OCRWM EA workshop to resolve present (p) and not present (np) issues for Chapter 7 of the EA, some geotechnical staff are being reassigned from SCP activities and NRC workshop preparation efforts. In addition, SCP Chapter 1 internal review is being changed from September 9-11 to October 7-9. HQ has agreed to postpone all three NRC workshops listed under item IV-5 of this report. The Project requests that HQ write a letter to NRC requesting postponement and send a copy of that letter to WMP0.

##### B. Previously Reported Issues:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
1. Scope and schedule for EA Issues Resolution Meetings with State and NRC.	Letter sent to Purcell on 7/26/85.	7/26/85
2. Letter dated July 30 requested that Burton acknowledge receipt of EA comment listing and confirm that comments will be handled by HQ.	Open	8/22/85

#### II. Major Internal Concerns

None to report.

SEP 09 1985

W. J. Purcell

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### III. Significant Accomplishments (SA)/Information Items (II)

#### SA

Effective September 3: SAIC moved their offices to the Valley Bank Building, 101 Convention Center Drive, Las Vegas.

#### II

At the NRC Exploratory Shaft Design meeting that was held on August 27 and 28 in Silver Springs, the NRC expressed concern about the quality level of the shaft liner and materials in the liner. They also were concerned about aspects of the Sandia study concerning the effect of shaft construction on the site performance. It was agreed to change the study to show more realistic scenarios for water entry into the proposed block.

The ESTP Committee met on August 29 and 30 in Las Vegas and discussed the 50-foot conveyance overrun that has been recommended for safety purposes. The concern is that deeper penetration into the Calico Hills may jeopardize credit for the site during performance assessment. Consideration is being given to relocating the 1480-foot break-out room to 1434 feet depth. The conveyance overrun would extend to 1484 feet and a small muck pocket would be constructed to allow for ramping to a lower depth if the tests require the lower elevation. The Committee also discussed the status of the air-coring cost-benefit analysis and proposed alternatives. When the alternatives are reviewed, a recommendation will be prepared for Project approval, probably in early October.

A group of Project personnel from Los Alamos National Laboratory, USGS and F&S are going to visit a drilling contractor near Apache Junction, Arizona where they are using dry air-drilling techniques to core horizontal boreholes in rhyolite. They will gather information that will be useful in developing the proposal for air-coring prototype testing in G-Tunnel at the NTS to evaluate the technique prior to coring in the Exploratory Shaft.

Virginia Oversby of LLNL is representing the NNWSI Project at a Spent Fuel Performance workshop in Sweden on September 3-6. Following that workshop, she will present a paper at the Materials Research Society 1985 Symposium entitled Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Material.

### IV. Upcoming Events

#### 1. Coordination Group Meetings

Wednesday-Friday, September 18-20: Project Control Coordination group meeting, D.C. (Initial Meeting).

Wednesday-Thursday, October 2-3: Institutional-Socioeconomic Coordination group meeting, Denver.

**2. HQ Meetings**

- o Thursday, September 19: Program Manager's Meeting, D.C.
- o Friday, September 6: Travel-time Meeting, Las Vegas.

**3. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings**

- o Wednesday-Friday, September 4-6: USGS QA Audit, Menlo Park, CA.
- o Friday, September 6: U.S. Air Force/WMPD meeting to discuss EA comments, Las Vegas.
- o Tuesday, September 10: ESF Status Meeting, NTS.
- o Tuesday, September 10: SOC Meeting, NTS.
- o Tuesday, September 10: NNWSI Project Copper Status Report Review, Livermore, CA.
- o Tuesday, September 10-11: SEIG Meeting, Las Vegas.
- o Wednesday, September 11: ES HQ-Comment Resolution Meeting, NTS.
- o Wednesday, September 11: SCP Chapter 4 Internal Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday-Friday, September 12-13: HQ Chapter 2 Review, D.C.
- o Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17: Chapter 8.3.5 Internal Review, Las Vegas. (As now scheduled, conflicts with SCP Coordinating group meeting; will probably be rescheduled to September 23-24).
- o Monday-Friday, September 16-20: TOC review of revised EA chapters, Las Vegas.
- o Tuesday, September 17: DOE/NV Management Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, September 19: SAIC Network Planning Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, September 26: Robotics and Remote Handling Meeting, Richland.
- o Wednesday-Thursday, October 2-3: PM-TPO Meeting, Las Vegas.

**4. State and Public Interaction**

- o Thursday, September 12: Nevada Public Health Association Speech (Witherill).
- o Thursday, September 19: Bunkerville Town Meeting.
- o Friday, October 4: Air Force Association Speech, (Don Vieth), Las Vegas.

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5. NRC Interaction

- o Monday-Thursday, September 23-26: Hydrology/Geochemistry NRC Meeting.
- o Tuesday-Friday, October 1-4: Performance Assessment Plan NRC Meeting.
- o Tuesday-Wednesday, October 8-9: Seismic/Tectonics NRC Workshop, DOE/HQ.

WMPO:DLV-1741

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

cc:

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M. W. Frei, DOE/HQ (RW-23), FORSTL  
V. J. Cassella, DOE/HQ (RW-22), FORSTL  
Ralph Stein, DOE/HQ (RW-23), FORSTL  
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## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

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SEP 16 1985

W. J. Purcell, Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ (RW-20),  
FORSTL

### NNWSI PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 1985

#### I. Issues Requiring Involvement of HQ or Other Projects

##### A. New Issues:

None to report.

##### B. Previously Reported Issues:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
1. The Project requests that HQ write a letter to NRC requesting postponement and send a copy of that letter to WMPO.	Open	9/5/85

#### II. Major Internal Concerns

None to report.

#### III. Significant Accomplishments (SA)/Information Items (II)

##### SA

Wes Patrick is leaving LLNL at the end of September to join the International Technology Corporation. Wes was Task Director for the Spent-Fuel Test at Climax. Wes will be Manager for Experimental Programs at the WIPP in Carlsbad, New Mexico. His departure is a significant loss to the Project and the geologic repository program.

##### II

The Las Vegas press reacted unfavorably to Ben Rusche's request that NRC make a preliminary site suitability determination for all three nominated sites. The Governor was quoted as being "flabber-gasted" and said it "confirmed suspicion that a lot of us have had, that the red bull nuclear express is on its way to Yucca Mountain." The article interpreted Rusches' request as being a proposal to declare Yucca Mountain geologically suitable to be the nations high-level radioactive waste dump.

SEP 16 1985

W. J. Purcell

-2-

Apparently the Wire Service report on the request was unclear and misinterpreted by the local press and State officials.

On September 11, a local radio station announced that Vern Witherill, former Technology Development and Engineering Branch Manager, is going to take over the responsibilities of the Nevada Test Site Office Director. The announcement interpreted this promotion to mean that, because of his most recent experience in the NNWSI Project, there is speculation that this move is one step closer to having the repository located in Nevada.

Tom Clark and Mitch Kunich were interviewed on September 11 by Larry Stammer of the Los Angeles Times newspaper regarding the NNWSI Project.

Carol Currin from the headquarters' Office of General Counsel is in Las Vegas to review the Project's EA administrative record.

#### IV. Upcoming Events

##### 1. Coordination Group Meetings

- o Tuesday-Wednesday, September 17-18: Project Management Coordination group meeting, D.C. (Initial Meeting).
- o Tuesday-Wednesday, September 17-18 or Wednesday-Thursday, September 18-19: SCP Coordination group meeting, Las Vegas.
- o / Wednesday-Thursday, October 2-3: Institutional-Socioeconomic Coordination group meeting, Denver.

##### 2. HQ Meetings

- o Tuesday, October 8: QA SCP Meeting, D.C.
- o Thursday, October 10: Program Manager's Meeting, (Tentative).
- o Thursday-Friday, October 10-11: SCP Chapter 3 HQ Review, HQ.

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

- o Thursday-Friday, September 12-13: HQ SCP Chapter 2 Review, D.C.
- o Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17: Chapter 8.3.5 Internal Review, Las Vegas. (As now scheduled, conflicts with SCP Coordinating group meeting; will probably be rescheduled to September 23-24).
- o Wednesday, September 18: ESF Budget Workshop, DEN.
- o Monday-Friday, September 16-20: TOC review of revised EA chapters, Las Vegas.

SEP 16 1985

W. J. Purcell

-3-

- o Tuesday, September 17: DOE/NV Management Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, September 19: SAIC Network Planning Review, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, September 26: Robotics and Remote Handling Meeting, Richland.
- o Wednesday-Thursday, October 2-3: PM-TPO Meeting, Las Vegas.
- o Thursday, October 3: ESTP Meeting, Las Vegas.
- o Monday-Wednesday, October 7-9: SCP Chapter 1 Review, Las Vegas.
- o Tuesday, October 8: SOC Meeting, NTS.

4. State and Public Interaction

- o Thursday, September 19: Bunkerville Town Meeting, (Vern Witherill).
- o Friday, October 4: Air Force Association Speech, (Don Vieth), Las Vegas.

5. NRC Interaction

- o All meetings have been postponed.

WMPO:DLV-1771

  
Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office



SEP 16 1985

W. J. Purcell

-4-

cc:

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**Department of Energy**

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**SEP 16 1985**

**W. J. Purcell, Director, Office of Geologic Repositories, DOE/HQ (RW-20),  
FORSTL**

**NNWSI PROJECT MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 1985**

**Enclosed is the NNWSI Monthly Report for July 1985 covering the technical  
activities and status of the NNWSI Project.**

**WMPO:DLV-1717**

**Enclosure:  
As stated**

  
**Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office**

SEP 18 1985

W. J. Purcell

-2-

cc w/encl:

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Ralph Stein, DOE/HQ (RW-23), FORSTL (2)  
E. S. Burton, DOE/HQ (RW-25), FORSTL  
J. J. Fiore, DOE/HQ (RW-22), FORSTL  
V. J. Cassella, DOE/HQ (RW-22), FORSTL  
J. O. Neff, NPO, DOE/RLC  
S. A. Mann, DOE/CH  
O. L. Olson, DOE/RL  
Stan Goldsmith, ONWI, Columbus, OH  
W. W. Dudley, Jr. USGS, Denver, CO  
R. W. Lynch, SNL, 6300, Albuquerque, NM  
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L. D. Ramspott, LLNL, Livermore, CA  
J. B. Wright, W, Mercury, NTS  
T. R. Clark, MGR  
R. D. Duncan, DMGR  
R. W. Taft, AMES  
J. B. Cotter, EEM  
D. H. Irby, EEM  
M. B. Blanchard, WMPO, DOE/NV  
M. P. Kunich, WMPO, DOE/NV  
V. F. Witherill, WMPO, DOE/NV  
James Blaylock, WMPO, DOE/NV  
Wendy Dixon, WMPO, DOE/NV  
J. R. Rinaldi, QAD  
R. L. Wise, SAIC, Golden, CO  
P. T. Prestholt, NRC  
R. R. Loux, NWPO, Carson City, NV  
C. H. Johnson, NWPO, Carson City, NV  
Dave Siefken, Weston, Rockville, MD  
M. E. Spaeth, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV  
J. R. LaRiviere, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV  
L. L. Andrist, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV  
J. H. Fiore, SAIC, Las Vegas, NV  
W. S. Twenhofel, Lakewood, CO  
Donald Schweitzer, BNL, Upton, NY