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JUN 14 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Technical Review Branch

FROM: Donald L. Chery, Jr., Section Leader
Hydrology Section
Technical Review Branch

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR DISTURBED ZONE AND GROUNDWATER TRAVEL
TIME TECHNICAL POSITIONS

As I discussed with you last week the schedules for the Groundwater Travel Time (GWTT) and Disturbed Zone (DZ) technical position are interrelated, with the GWTT technical position being dependent on the completion of the Disturbed Zone technical position. From the comments received from the Office of General Counsel, the Operations Branch and draft comments from Research on the draft GWTT technical position (4/25/88), it is apparent that a well stated set of options for pursuing the position need to be prepared for NRC management and a decision solicited from them on the course to follow. The following is my best estimate of the schedules for the two positions.

Disturbed Zone

After a thorough review of the Disturbed Zone draft technical position by Dave Brooks and then myself, we found it needed major revision. We eliminated the gross inconsistencies and redundancies and had a revised draft prepared with a more logical structure and indicating items and comments that need resolution prior to submitting the draft for internal NRC comment.

On May 25, 1988, the project was assigned to Dr. Tilak Verma to coordinate the Branch preparation of a revision. Among the several issues that needed to be resolved is the impact of the thermal load on the disturbed zone. The references on this issue need to be reviewed and a coherent and consistent argument made in the position. The assignment to Dr. Verma requested a revised preliminary draft position by 6/10/88. No revised draft was received last Friday; however, discussion of the issues and leave have delayed this revised draft. Dr. Verma plans to have a revised work draft by June 22, 1988. Dr. Verma has taken six days (9 hour days) of sick leave (for hand therapy) since the assignment was made, and is taking more sick leave this week and has requested sick leave (hand surgery) for July 11-15, 1988, and annual leave for July 18-29, 1988 (I have not approved the annual leave pending progress on the Disturbed Zone technical position). I estimate that it will take 4 weeks to get a position prepared beginning June 22th, if Dr. Verma can focus his attention on it. Thus, a draft position could be ready for internal review by July 15, 1988; however, this is contingent on a very rapid review of the

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thermal issue. We then need to distribute to OGC, RES and HLOB for their comments. Giving these groups two weeks for review means we could have their comments by August 1, 1988. Allow ourselves two weeks to assimilate the comments and either prepare a revised draft of the position or an options paper for management; means this process could be completed by August 15, 1988.

Groundwater Travel Time

Part of this process is dependent on the development of the Disturbed Zone position; however, we can begin drafting the options and our estimate of a resources and schedules. Fred Ross will be preparing this information. Presently we are still waiting for formal comments from Research (this need was discussed with R. Grill by phone 6/10/88). Also, Mr. Ross is presently participating in an observational audit of a DOE contractor, USGS, and will not complete this assignment until June 24, 1988. For those aspects of the options not dependent on the disturbed zone (or making assumptions) a draft of the options paper should be ready by July 11, 1988. We will definitely have a preliminary options paper prior to the completion of the Disturbed Zone position or options.

/s/
Donald L. Chery, Jr., Section Leader
Hydrology Section
Technical Review Branch

cc: HLTR SL's
T. Verma
F. Ross
R. Grill, RES

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