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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: December 4, 1986
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report received in this office, i.e., for week ending November 28, 1986.

nan for PTP

Enclosure

cc: J. J. Linehan
K. Stablein
S. G. Bilhorn
S. Wastler

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Nevada Operations Office

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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 28, 1986

I. Critical Items Status

Stop Work Order

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)--Draft field experiment procedures and technical procedures are complete and internal reviews are in progress for site geology activities.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (LLNL)--Scientific investigation planning (SIP) documentation for the waste package environment is due to the Waste Management Project Office (WMPO) on December 5, 1986, and for waste form-spent fuel on January 30, 1987.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)--The first training session on the latest version of the USGS Quality Assurance (QA) Manual was held for the QA staffs of the USGS, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Golden. Numerous questions slowed progress requiring an additional day be scheduled to complete this training.

Status of various USGS SIP documentation and quality assurance level assignments (QALAs) is as follows:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Status</u>
Affects of dry coring and wet coring on hydrologic properties of tuffs.	Draft being revised.
Borehole stemming and instrumentation in G-Tunnel.	In review.
Surface-based borehole investigations.	Review comments posted to document.
Fracture flow.	Gathering information.

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Task	Status
Hydrologic prototype.	In preparation at USBR.
Interact fracture field.	Returned to USBR for additional draft work.
Paleoenvironment, infiltration and shallow unsaturated zone, seismic investigations, prototype exploratory shaft geologic testing, and exploratory shaft geologic testing.	In final review at SAIC/Golden.
Interim and prototype testing plans for geologic studies of the exploratory shaft.	Submitted for internal USGS review on November 18.
Exploratory shaft intact fracture test.	Preliminary response to review comments complete.
Tracer prototype.	Revision complete.
Exploratory shaft and site.	Revision of QALAs complete.

Waste Package Strategy Document

LLNL staff members are waiting instruction from WMPO.

Site Characterization Plan (SCP)Accomplishments:

Section 1.0-1.6 of Chapter 1 were distributed to Project Overview Committee (POC) reviewers on November 19.

A consolidated markup of Sections 5.0 and 5.1 of Chapter 5 went into production on November 19 and should be available for POC review next week.

Markups of Sections 8.3.1.5.1 and 8.3.1.5.2 were distributed to PIRC 15 on November 20.

Sections 6.3 and 6.4 of Chapter 6 were distributed for POC review.

The POC review of Chapter 4 was completed and the chapter went to production on November 21.

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Revised Section 8.3.1.4.1 and 8.3.1.4.2 (Rock Characteristics - Information Needs (INs) 1.15.1 and 1.15.2) were distributed to PIRC 15 on November 19.

Revised Sections 8.3.1.15.1 - 8.3.1.15.3 (Rock Characteristics - INs 4.7.1 - 4.7.3) were distributed for PIRC 15 review on November 19.

Status of ongoing activities:

PIRC 1 - Work is continuing on Sections 1.7 and 1.8. A draft revision to the calcite silica discussion in Chapter 1 has been completed and faxed out for a quick review. Draft issue resolution strategies (IRSs) for erosion and surface characteristics are in preparation. A subset of PIRC 1 members met on November 18 to work on the IRSs for pre- and postclosure tectonics.

PIRC 2 - A consolidated markup of the Section 8.3 material is in preparation. PIRC 2 met on November 20-21 to discuss revised sections of 8.3 including the IRS for Issues 1.15 and 4.7.

PIRC 3 - Work is continuing on comment resolution and revision of Chapter 3.

PIRC 4 - Work is underway on the summary section of Chapter 4. PIRC 4 met on November 19-21 to discuss revised sections of 8.3 including the IRS and INs for Issue 1.14.

PIRC 5 - The discussion of future climate modeling was revised. A draft IRS for Issue 1.16 is being prepared.

PIRC 6 - Section 6.1.5 is being written. Issues 1.11, 4.2, and 2.4 are still being revised and should be completed within the next two weeks.

PIRC 7 - The November 24-25 meeting was postponed until the waste package postclosure compliance strategy document has been revised and reviewed by DOE/HQ. Outstanding sections of 8.3 (Issue 1.4 and 1.10) are nearing completion.

PIRC 8 - A PIRC 8 comment resolution meeting was held November 17-19. The main revisions will be to the characterization issues (Issues 2.8 - 2.11).

PIRC 9 - Reference verification is ongoing. All references used must be published by mid-December if they are to be included in the SCP.

PIRC 10 - Minor revisions are being made to Sections 8.4 and 8.7.

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PIRC 11 - Work is underway on collecting and organizing data from participants to be used in the networks presented in Section 8.5. Los Alamos has provided information and SNL met with PIRC 11 members to discuss data needs.

PIRC 12 - Revisions to Issues 1.1 and 1.6 will be available next week. Other revisions to PIRC 12 material are underway.

PIRC 13 - PIRC 13 text is still being revised.

PIRC 14 - Sections 8.1 and 8.2 are partially complete and should be ready for a quick review by DOE/HQ.

PIRC 15 - PIRC 15 has identified 22 major problem areas that need to be addressed in Section 8.3. Twenty-two subcommittees have been organized to address these problems. A PIRC telecon was held on November 19 to discuss progress. A PIRC 15 meeting is scheduled for November 24-26.

PIRC 16 - A tentative PIRC 16 editorial review meeting is scheduled for the first week in December.

PIRC 17 - A consolidated markup is being prepared and should be available for POC review by December 2. A PIRC 17 comment resolution meeting was held on November 17-18.

POC activities - The POC review of Chapter 4 was completed this week and the markup was submitted to production in preparation for DOE/HQ review. A revised working schedule for the POC reviews was prepared. POC review of Chapter 1 is scheduled for December 1-3 and of Chapters 3 and 5 for December 1-5.

Core Sample Management

The draft Sample Management Facility (SMF) Technical Procedure No. 5, "Procedures for Field Logging and Documentation of NNWSI Project Core," was initiated at SAIC. The staff review of Technical Procedure No. 4, "Procedures for Collection, Labeling, and Handling of NNWSI Project Drillsite Samples," was completed and the comments are being incorporated.

The detailed work packages and associated costs for the SMF were completed and submitted for SAIC review.

I-A. Project Manager's Concerns

A letter to Gale, dated November 20, requested copy of or explanation of the "Comment Response Document" for the draft consolidated Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management financial assistance guidelines. (87-479).

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A letter to Knight, dated November 21, requests response to Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office request to send representative to Appendix 7 visit, proposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to Parsons Brinkerhoff and Bechtel. (87-487).

A letter to Alexander dated November 21, requests additional clarification of Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR) definition of ongoing and planned site characterization activities; especially requests assistance in categorizing enclosed examples. (87-489).

A letter to Stein, dated November 25, requests input regarding details needed to produce the SCP: (1) number of documents to be printed, (2) binding, (3) cost, (4) printing schedule, (5) color coding of document, and (6) cover design. (87-501).

A letter to Gale, dated November 21, transmitting the NNWSI Project working draft of the Site Characterization Socioeconomic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Yucca Mountain and requesting comments by November 24 in order to deliver the draft to Robert Loux by December 1. (87-504).

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

Issue	Status	First Report Date
1. 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
2. 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
3. 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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4. 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
5. 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
6. Letter to Alexander requests level of effort support for Argonne National Laboratory in support of NWISI Project SCP reference verification task as defined in an enclosed outline. (87-295) Due November 6, 1986. 10/31/86
7. 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
8. Letter dated November 5 to Gale requests clear statement as to whether or not State of Nevada is required to comply with Office of Management and Budget regulations regarding information collection before WMPO can review Nevada's request for calendar year 1987. (87-395). Due November 10, 1986. 11/14/86

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9. Letter dated November 10 to Newton requests clarification of three areas in minutes of 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 State and tribes and NRC participating on DOE audits. (87-404) Due December 8, 1986. 11/14/86
10. 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) Due November 17, 1986. 11/14/86

Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

Representatives from the Government Accounting Office, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the WMPO toured the G-Tunnel underground facility on November 18, 1986.

SAIC Milestone R945, the Working Draft of the Site Characterization Socioeconomic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Yucca Mountain, was transmitted to WMPO on November 21 for transmittal to DOE Headquarters.

The revised draft Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan was completed at SAIC and sent to Headquarters for policy review prior to distribution to the State.

Charles Simonds accepted an offer from the Regulatory/Site Evaluation Branch for a position as physical scientist. He will manage the Exploratory Shaft Test Plan for WMPO. His expected reporting date is January 5, 1987.

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III. Upcoming EventsA. Coordination Group Meetings

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1.	Tuesday, December 9	Institutional and Socioeconomic Coordination Group	Las Vegas	W. Dixon, WMPO

B. HQ Meetings

1.	Monday-Tuesday, December 8-9	Headquarters review (Kale, Isaacs visit)	Las Vegas	D. Vieth, WMPO
2.	Wednesday-Thursday, December 10-11	Spent-fuel working	Washington, D.C.	L. Skousen, WMPO
3.	Monday-Friday, December 15-19	Licensing Support Task Group Meeting	Washington, D.C.	M. Kunich, WMPO

C. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings

1.	Monday-Friday December 1-5	POC meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
2.	Tuesday, December 2	SOC meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
3.	Wednesday-Thursday, December 10-11	PM-TPO meeting	Las Vegas	J. Fiore, SAIC
4.	Wednesday-Friday December 10-12	POC meeting	Las Vegas	U. Clanton, WMPO
5.	Tuesday, December 16	DOE/NV Manager's Meeting	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO

D. State and Public Interaction

1.	Monday-Thursday, December 7-11	American Geophysical Union Meeting	San Francisco, California
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E. NRC Interaction

None to report.

WMPO:NRD-490



Donald L. Vieth, Director
Waste Management Project Office