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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 9, 1986

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

Handwritten initials: RP

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

SUBJECT: NNWSI Site Report period March 22, 1986 through May 9, 1986

I. QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. During the week of April 14, an audit of REECO (Reynolds Electric and Engineering Co.) was conducted by the NNWSI QA organization. REECO is the prime contractor to the DOE for operation of the Nevada Test Site. In this capacity, REECO has been responsible for support of the NNWSI project on the NTS.

In the course of the audit, more than twenty major findings were identified by the audit team. In consideration of the seriousness of the finding, Jim Blalock, Project QA Manager, has prepared a stop work order for Don Vieth's signature. It is expected that the stop work order against REECO will be in effect

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by the close of business, May 9, 1986. I will obtain a copy of the stop work order as soon as it is effective.

B. Dale Hedges was here for two weeks (April 21 to May 2). On April 22, Mr. Hedges spoke at the TPO-Project Manager meeting and answered questions. This was an open meeting held at the Hacienda Hotel. In addition to NNWSI personnel, the State of Nevada was represented. During his two week stay, Mr. Hedges had a number of interactions with DOE and SAIC personnel. As a result of these talks, he has a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the NNWSI QA program and organizations. The feed-back I've received from the people that Mr. Hedges spoke to indicates that his visit has had a positive impact. It is my belief that this will usually be the case when NRC staff members interact directly with DOE project personnel on site specific subjects.

C. An article appeared in the May 6 Las Vegas Review-Journal that quoted Bob Loux, executive director of the Nevada Nuclear Project Office, as saying that the NRC has "found defects in the DOE's quality-control program." Mr. Loux was referring to the USGS stop work order. He was further quoted as saying, "It calls into question whether all the hydrologic and geologic data collected is going to be useable. It's a sad commentary on the federal government."

In the same article, Bob Fulkerson, of Citizen Alert, an organization opposed to the Yucca Mountain site, is quoted as saying, "It confirms our suspicion that the work being done down there is real shoddy."

Later that same day I received a call from Laura Wingard of the Review-Journal, the author of the above article and, later, from Mary Manning of the Las Vegas Sun. Both calls were follow-up on the above article. Both ladies asked a number of questions, including:

- What role did the NRC play in issuing the stop work order;
- Did the NRC believe the work done so far by DOE participants was sub-standard;
- Have like actions been taken by the other projects (BWIP, SRP).

I pointed out that the QA program is a "living", evolving program that is regularly modified to meet the needs of the project. I further stated that the NRC has not identified any area of "poor work" that the staff considers "serious." I stated that the staff considers the stop work order a positive indication that the QA system is working and that Don Vieth will not tolerate "shoddy" work or laxity in implementing the QA program in the NNWSI. Further, I explained the role the NRC has in relation to the NNWSI QA program, in general, and the USGS stop work order in particular. I told both ladies that the NRC staff took no active role in imposing the stop work order.

Copies of the newspaper articles described above are enclosed.

D. Over the last several weeks I have reviewed the "Q" list technical position and have given my comments to Susan Bilhorn. Since there is an updated version, she will send it to me for further review and comment.

II. GEOLOGY-HYDROLOGY

A. On Monday, April 28, a workshop was held to "finalize the strategy for resolving the remaining problems and questions about the calcite-silica deposits" found in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain (trench 14). Charlotte Abrams, WMGT, and Larry McKague, LLNL, attended. Ms. Abrams and Dr. McKague are preparing brief trip reports outlining their understanding of the outcome of the workshop. A copy of the workshop announcement is attached.

B. On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29 and 30, the Seismic/Tectonic Position Paper working group met in Las Vegas. Charlotte Abrams attended this meeting.

The meeting was held to review subsections of the abridged version of the Seismic/Tectonic Position Paper and to review the revised preparation plan and to discuss and resolve Project comments on the following items:

1. Topical report on Seismic and Faulting Hazards;
2. Relationship of tectonic processes to hydrology at the site;
3. Regulatory framework development;
4. Proposed methodology for assessing risks due to vibratory ground motion and surface faulting;
5. Approach to parametric analysis for risk assessments.

Charlotte Abrams has handouts from this meeting and is writing a trip report.

C. Because of WPAS and budget preparation, it is my understanding that little, if any, work has been accomplished on the core library problem in the last month. There is still no decision on the future location of the core library (Mercury, Area 25, Las Vegas) and QA procedures for handling core have not been finalized.

III. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT/ALLOCATION

A number of performance allocation meetings have been held with the NNWSI participants over the last several months. Felton Bingham, Sandia National Laboratory, who is the NNWSI performance assessment-allocation lead, is said to be satisfied that the

project, in general, will work effectively in this very important area.

Attached is the performance allocation workshop schedule and statement of status.

IV. SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

During the March TPO-Project Manager meeting, Sandia National Laboratory gave a presentation on the NNWSI Systems Engineering Program. Topics presented were:

- Status of the Systems Engineering Management Plan (SEMP);
- The Systems Engineering Process;
- Role of the Issues Hierarchy and the Issue Resolution Strategy in the Systems Engineering Process;
- Identification of Interfaces and System Studies;
- Role and Integration of Quality Assurance in Issue Resolution and the Systems Engineering Process;
- Use of the Q-List Methodology in the Issue Resolution Strategy to develop the NNWSI Project Q-List;
- NNWSI Project Baseline and Technical Baseline Controls.

A detailed handout (enclosed) discusses each of the above topics.

V. SITE INTEGRATION GROUP (SIG)

An NNWSI Site Integration Group (SIG) has been formed. The SIG is made up of WMPO and SAIC personnel. The SIG is responsible for:

- Preparation of the "Site Integration Management Plan" (SIMP);
- Accommodate need for the "Surface Based Test Plan";
- Compile Drilling Network;
- Milestone Tracking.

Enclosed is a handout that lists the members of the SIG and gives a brief discussion of the above points.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. The three OR's were in Silver Spring the week of April 14 for meetings with John Davis and Bob Browning and the division staff. The OR's participated in a "first" this trip. We briefed DOE Hq. personnel.

From my perspective, this was the best trip yet. We spent a full 5 days in Silver Spring and this allowed many more conversations with staff members than has been previously possible. I did not come away from this trip with the feeling that only half the job had been done.

B. During the week of April 28, Joe Bunting, WMPC branch chief and his crew were in Las Vegas to present the NRC's pilot Licensing Support System (LSS) to the first and second repository states, tribes, and to interested DOE personnel.

The presentations went over well with the audience, Cathy Ojalvo (Russell) got many response sheets with good feedback. However, DOE-WMFO and SAIC have been silent. I've heard nothing from any project people who attended.

C. On May 15, Mr. John Davis, NMSS Office Director, has agreed to address the State of Nevada Commission on Nuclear

Projects in Las Vegas. Ben Rusche is also scheduled to speak to the Commission. A copy of the agenda is attached.

D. There is little to report concerning the April TPO-Project Manager meeting. With the exception of Dale Hedges' presentation and a session on QA, the meeting was closed. The time was devoted to budget discussions.

E. Dr. George Birchard, NRC Office of Research, has requested samples of Topapah Spring tuff for Dr. John Apps, LBNL. I presented the request to Dr. Uel Clanton, DOE-WMPO, for processing. After consideration by the "Sample Oversight Committee" (SOC), Dr. Clanton recommended that the request be approved. Dr. Don Vieth has approved the request so, in the near future, Dr. Apps will obtain 100 pounds of outcrop Topapah Spring tuff. The system works.

PTP:nan

cc: with enclosures

JJLinehan

KStablein

SBillhorn

cc: no enclosures

DLVieth

FRCook

TVerma

JSzymanski

MGlora

DMKunihero

BCook

JPKnight

Enclosures:

Nevada Nuclear Waste Newsletter, April 1986

Meeting Notice (Letter from State of Nevada Nuclear Waste
Project Office)

DOE Monthly Report, February 1986

Handout: When Do You Assign QA Levels?

Paper: NNWSI Project Staffing, Fiscal Year 1986

Paper: Planned NNWSI Project Field Activities for April 1986

Memo: Meeting Notice on Workshop on Calcite-Silica Deposits
(SAIC, dated April 14, 1986)

Article: (Las Vegas Review Journal, May 6, 1986) re: DOE
Problems Halt Research at Test Site On Nuke Repository

Article: (Las Vegas Review-Journal, May 7, 1986) re: DOE
Defends Yucca Mountain Research

Article: (Las Vegas Sun, May 7, 1986) re: Errors Possible with
Research at Yucca Mountain

Article: (Las Vegas Sun, May 8, 1986) re: Meeting Information

Article: (Las Vegas Review-Journal, May 7, 1986) re: Bryan
Praises States' Vote Rejecting Radioactive Dirt

Info re: Revised Plan for Development of Nevada Nuclear Waste
Storage Investigations (NNWSI) Project Seismic/Tectonic
Position Paper (WMPD Action Item #86-1065)

Handout: Introduction and Objectives (NNWSI Systems
Engineering)

Handout: Site Integration Group Presentation to PM/TPO
Meeting, March 24, 1986

Handout: Performance Allocation---Status, TPO Meeting March
24, 1986

Info: Site Geology Tectonics and Volcanism Seismicity

Info: Geophysics and Drilling

Info: Hydrology

Info: Ground Water Geochemistry, etc.

Agenda: March 1986 PM-TPO Meeting

Handout: TPO Presentation March 25, 1986, Final EA Status,
etc.

Handout: Status of SCP Chapters