



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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95 JUN 16 12:16

TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director  
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. OR - NNWSI  
DATE: June 12, 1986  
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report received in this office, i.e., for week ending June 5, 1986.

nan for PTP

Enclosures

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

WM Record File 102  
WM Project 11  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
PDR   
LPDR  (N)

Distribution: Captan Kennedy  
REB Still JOE JTG  
MJB Justice MRK DRM  
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

cc: Linehan  
Stablein  
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## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

P. O. Box 14100

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JUN 06 1986

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

### NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE INVESTIGATIONS (NNWSI) PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 5, 1986.

#### I. Project Manager's Concerns

A letter was sent on June 2 to Jim Knight requesting concurrence on the proposed agenda for the June 12 NNWSI/Nuclear Regulatory Commission Management Meeting; a reply is needed by June 10. (86-1362)

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

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>First Report Date</u>
1. Letter to Barrett dated December 24 requested which states are prepared to work in cooperative mode (informal agreement) with Transportation Department; also requested language that could be used in grant to the State in the area of transportation. (86-450)	Due January 13, 1986. Open. Philpott to call WMPO.	12/26/86
2. Request for Benson to define when site characterization phase actually begins. (86-517)	Due January 13, 1986. Awaiting memo from DOE/HQ confirming telecon with Benson	01/15/86
3. Letter to Knight dated February 13 asks for guidance on how to address the difference between the NRC definition of the "engineered barrier" and the Program's baseline position (86-714).	Due March 6	02/20/86

4. Letter to Knight dated February 13 requests clarification of proposed time frame for NRC Audit of WMPO before initiating site characterization; is it tied to a specific NWPA event? (86-715) Due March 6 02/20/86
5. 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 03/27/86
6. Letter to Knight dated April 3 requests HQ guidance on HQ involvement in NRC/Project procedures for implementing Morgan-Davis agreement. (86-1032) Due April 15 04/10/86
7. Letter to Gale dated April 3 requests formal guidance on psychological factors related to monitoring and mitigation planning. (86-1029) Due April 24 04/10/86
8. Letter to Gale from Dixon dated April 18 requests clarification of guidance on OMB regulations governing collection of information by Federal agencies. (86-1107) Due May 9 04/24/86
9. In a letter dated April 22 to D. Alexander, M. Blanchard requested that the Office of Geologic Repositories authorize the Project to deviate from baseline Document OGR/B-5. (86-1145) Due May 13 05/01/86

## II. Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

On May 28, 1986, the State of Nevada and its entire Congressional delegation filed five separate petitions in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for review of various actions of the Secretary of Energy relating to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA) and the ongoing consideration of Yucca Mountain as a site for a high-level nuclear waste repository. The first petition contends that the DOE failed to obtain the requisite jurisdiction and control (allegedly "exclusive federal jurisdiction") over the site. The second petition generally contends that the final Environmental Assessment (EA) issued on May 28, 1986, failed to "adequately and accurately include and discuss any or all of the factors" required by the NWPA. The third petition challenges the "preliminary determination of suitability" by the Secretary and seeks a declaration that such a determination may be made only upon the completion of site characterization. The fourth petition challenges the restriction in DOE grants against use of grant funds for litigation against the U. S. Government. The fifth petition contends that any site can only be characterized after the publication of the final EA, and after affected states have been allowed to comment upon them and the Secretary has taken any such comments into account.

On May 29, the Manager, Nevada Operations (NV), was delegated authority by Joseph F. Salgado, Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary, for the selection of a Technical and Management Support Services contractor for DOE's Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program concerning Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. A NV Source Evaluation Board (SEB) is being established. Ralph Stein, DOE Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR), will be designated an ex-officio member and Mitchell P. Kunich, Deputy Director, Waste Management Project Office (WMPO), will be appointed as chairperson of the SEB.

Nine fuel rods (three shipments) were sent from E-MAD to Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) in Idaho Falls via a route that by-passed the Las Vegas area. The remaining eight rods will be shipped to INEL within two weeks.

The DOE/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was sent to Robert Loux (Nevada Nuclear Project Office) with a request to meet and discuss the MOA.

An initial draft of the NNWSI Project Reference Information Base (RIB) was submitted to WMPO by Sandia National Laboratory this week (Milestone R081).

The Director, WMPO, released some of the funds requested by the State of Nevada for independent testing and monitoring activities. The grant will be modified accordingly. Three research projects were found to be eligible for funding as follows: Unsaturated Zone Monitoring and Data

Development (\$188,377); Faulting and Tectonics (\$226,854); and Volcanism (\$49,050). The total funds released are \$464,281. The other four tests proposed by the State require more detailed information so the DOE can review them in context of existing characterization plans. The four deferred tests are Regional Groundwater Flow and Hydraulic Continuity Between the Repository Block and Adjacent Areas, Distribution and Amount of Physical Climate Groundwater Discharge (Recharge) in the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Region, Analysis of Short-Term Climate and Weather Influence on Surface Water Hydrology and Potential Recharge, and Assessment of Carbon-14 Age Data Corrections for Water Supplies in Unsaturated and Saturated Tuff Sequences in the Yucca Mountain Area. A letter to Loux explained that the grant would be further modified when the remaining questions are answered.

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) has begun modeling the new ground-level data on aeromagnetic anomaly 10 near Lathrop Wells, just south of Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The purpose of the study is to better evaluate the volume of late Cenozoic basalts in order to determine past magnetic volume versus time. These data will be used to help predict future volcanism in this area. The modeling so far bears out the previous estimate of about 1,000 feet to the top of the magnetic (basalt?) body. The USGS is working closely with Bruce Crowe, Los Alamos National Laboratory, on the analysis.

Chapter 1 (Geology) of the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) underwent an internal review in Las Vegas, May 27-30. The review was thorough and constructive, and did not call for major rewrite of the chapter. Chapter 3 (Hydrology) of the SCP was scheduled for review on May 29-30. However, the review could not be completed in the allotted time, and the reviewers will reconvene on June 4-5.

A concentrated effort was made by the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)/Golden Quality Assurance (QA) staff to put the finishing touches to the draft of the USGS QA Manual. Copies of the manual were produced and distributed for internal USGS and preliminary Project review.. The new manual represents a considerable expansion that, in addition to correcting several previous shortcomings, provides compliance with the latest revision of the NNWSI Project QA Plan, NVO 196-17, Rev. 4.

The Sandia QA Program Plan was submitted to WMPO on May 29 for approval (milestone R088).

Don Vieth escorted Congressman Weaver (Oregon) on a tour of Climax. The Congressman was receptive and the tour went well. The Congressman joined protester pickets at the Nevada Test Site border on the day after the tour.

III. Upcoming EventsA. Coordination Group Meetings

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1.	Wednesday-Thursday, June 11-12	Waste Package Coordination Group	Columbus, Ohio	L. Skousen, WMPO
2.	Monday-Thursday, June 16-19	Institutional/ Socioeconomic Coordination Group	St. Louis, MO	W. Dixon, WMPO

B. HQ Meetings

1.	Thursday-Friday June 5-6	Copper Containers Meeting	Washington, D.C.	M. Valentine, WMPO
2.	Tuesday-Wednesday, June 3-4	OCRWM Internal Review	Washington, D.C.	B. West, WMPO
3.	Wednesday-Thursday, June 4-5	Environmental Planning Meeting	Washington, D.C.	B. West, WMPO
4.	Monday-Thursday, June 16-19	Exploratory Shaft Facility Meeting	Washington, D.C.	D. Irby, WMPO
5.	Wednesday-Thursday June 18-19	Ad Hoc Corrosion Panel	Las Vegas	L. Skousen, WMPO
6.	Thursday-Friday June 19-20	SCP Chapter 7 Review	Washington, D.C.	M. Blanchard, WMPO

C. Internal Project and DOE/NV Meeting

1.	Tuesday, June 17	DOE/NV Manager's Review	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
2.	Tuesday-Thursday June 17-19	Systems Engineering Peer Review	Las Vegas	L. Skousen, WMPO
3.	Tuesday-Wednesday July 1-2	PM-TPO Meeting	Las Vegas	J. Fiore, SAIC

D. State and Public Interaction

1.	Monday-Tuesday June 9-10	NV Legislators Tour of Yucca Mountain	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
2. Monday-Thursday, June 16-19	American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting	Reno	---
3. Tuesday, June 17	Nye County Commissioner's Meeting	Tonopah	B. West, WMPO
4. Thursday, June 19	Speech to MENSA	Las Vegas	B. West, WMPO
5. Wednesday-Friday, June 25-27	USNCTT Meeting, Don Vieth	Washington, D.C.	B. West, WMPO
<u>E. NRC Interaction</u>			
1. Thursday, June 12	NRC/NNWSI/Project Management Meeting	Washington, D.C.	J. Szymanski, WMPO



Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

WMPO:WRD-1413