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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 17, 1986

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

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

PTP

SUBJECT: NNWSI Site Report, period June 17, 1986 through July  
17, 1986

I. QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. The stop work orders issued against the NNWSI participants by WMFO are all still in effect. Only Fennix and Scisson is working on technical tasks. Because of the stop work orders, there is very little technical activity in the NNWSI project.

B. Dale Hedges and I visited Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on June 25. Jim Blalock, WMFO QA Manager accompanied us.

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John Dronkers, LLNL QA Manager and his staff reviewed the LLNL QA program for us. Mr. Hedges and I were very pleased to learn that the LLNL QA program has come a long way in the last year. There is evidence of a true dedication by management to achieving a fully implemented QA program as well as a much improved acceptance of QA by the Livermore staff.

After lunch, we toured several laboratories with Dr. Virginia Oversby and talked with a number of researchers assigned to the project. As a result of these conversations, I came away with the impression that there is still a lack of understanding between the NRC and the project concerning what QA procedures the NRC considers to be adequate or reasonable. We see many examples of level 2 and level 3 QA procedures that seem adequate for licensing.

C. WMPO has established a steering committee to study the core handling procedures at the test site. As has been previously reported, there may be a serious problem in showing adequate custody of core from the bore hole to the core library. Other QA problem areas in handling the core are:

1. Logging of core, both at the well site and in the core library.
2. The time lag between receipt of the core at the core library and the logging (fracture), photographing and boxing for permanent storage.
3. The lack of documentation for shipment of core samples to participant labs.
4. Security of the core while in storage.

There is a meeting of the steering committee on July 23 at which time an attempt will be made to resolve the historic problems and to make recommendations on pedigreeing the core now

in the project's possession and, possibly, for additional core holes. I will attend this meeting.

D. It has been suggested that the NRC conduct a "mini-audit" of a selected element of the NNWSI project under the Appendix 7 Agreement. Included would be members of I & E. The State of Nevada would be invited to observe.

The "mini-audit" idea has met with tentative approval by the NRC Division of Waste Management and WMPD Management. The State of Nevada has agreed to act as an observer. This idea will be pursued further.

E. Jim Kennedy, WMRP QA Section Leader has asked for 2 letters authored by WMPD and sent to DOE Headquarters. They are:

1. Letter to Jim Knight requesting clarification of the time frame for the proposed NRC audit of WMPD prior to initiation of site characterization;
2. Letter to Don Alexander requesting guidance for writing Chapter 8.6 (QA) of the SCP.

I have not received an answer from WMPD.

## II. GEOLOGY-HYDROLOGY

A. The draft GTP titled "Guidance on Seismic and Tectonic Considerations for Geologic Repository Operations Areas" was given to me by Jerry Szymanski, WMPD. Szymanski was anxious to know whether the rewrite of 10 CFR 100 Appendix A contained in the GTP was in addition to, or a replacement of, the existing 10 CFR 100 Appendix A. His concern stemmed from the fact that the basis for our review of the surface facility is 10 CFR 72 and 10 CFR 100 Appendix A is directly referenced in 10 CFR 72. I spoke to Mike Blackford about this and he assured me that the content of the GTP is the Division's guidance and that no

reference to 10 CFR 100 Appendix A is necessary. Blackford further assured me that there would be at least one more draft of the GTP so that a number of concerns and suggestions can be accommodated.

B. In paragraph I, QA, I stated that the status of the core and the operation of the core library is presently being studied by a committee established by WMPD. It is expected that a decision resolving this problem will be made in the next several months. In addition to determining what pedigree the core might have, a decision will be made on where the permanent core library will be located. Candidates at present are Area 25, NTS (near Yucca Mountain) and a facility located in Las Vegas.

There are a number of considerations that WMPD must consider. Cost, distance from bore hole to facility and present availability of suitable quarters are only a few. It is expected that a final decision on this problem will be made by the end of the year.

### III. GEOCHEMISTRY

On July 14, I escorted Dr. John Apps, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to the test site to collect samples of Topapah Spring outcrop. Dr. Uel Clanton, WMPD, and Dr. Kevin Knauss, LLNL, went along. A site at Eusted Butte, known to Dr. Knauss, was selected as a sample site. Dr. Apps is working on an Office of Research contract administered by Dr. George Birchard.

Dr. Apps was able to collect sufficient samples and Dr. Knauss volunteered to ship the material through the LLNL facilities. Dr. Apps seemed well satisfied with the material he collected.

### IV. REPOSITORY ENGINEERING

All future exploratory shaft design activities will be conducted at the Fennix and Scisson, Tulsa, Oklahoma offices. WMPD is scheduling a QA audit of this activity this fall. The appropriate NNWSI team members should consider an Appendix 7 visit after the audit.

V. WASTE PACKAGE

Nothing to report.

VI. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Nothing to report.

VII. SITE-ENVIRONMENTAL

Nothing to report.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A. I have been informed by WMPD that the ACRS site visit has been cancelled.

B. The quarterly DR-Division Management Meeting has been scheduled for July 30, 31, and August 1. I have arranged a site visit for Dr. Bell on the 29th.

C. There is a meeting between the NRC and the State of Nevada at Carson City, Nevada, on August 5. Joe Bunting, Chief, WMPC, will lead the NRC contingent.

PTP:nan

cc: With enclosures:

J. J. Linehan  
K. Stablein  
S. Bilhorn

cc: No enclosures:

D. L. Vieth	D. M. Kunihero
F. R. Cook	G. Cook
T. Verma	J. P. Knight
J. Szymanski	N. Still
M. Glora	R. R. Loux

Enclosures:

NNWSI Project Monthly Report for May 1986  
NNWSI Storage Investigations, Milestone Description  
2 NNWSI Project Cost Performance Graphs