



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

Reply to:
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Suite 319
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
Tel: (702) 388-6125
FTS: 598-6125

TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: October 27, 1987
SUBJECT: DOE Weekly Report

Please find enclosed the above-referenced report received in this office, i.e., for week ending October 16, 1987.

nan for PTP

Enclosure

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

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PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

88130199
WM Project: WM-11
PDR w/encl
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

WM Record File: 102
LPDR w/encl



Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

P. O. Box 98518

Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

OCT 21 1987

Stephen H. Kale, Associate Director, Geologic Repositories, HQ (RW-20) FORS

NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE INVESTIGATIONS (NNWSI) PROJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 16, 1987

I. Critical Items Status

A. Stop-Work Orders

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)--Four current LLNL activities require scientific investigation planning (SIP) documents and their associated quality assurance level assignments (QALAs) to be approved by the Waste Management Project Office (WMPO). The four have been reviewed by WMPO and returned to LLNL with comments. Responses to the comments have been received and are currently being evaluated. The stop-work order has been lifted on all other current work activities that have an approved QALA.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)--The four generic conditions identified for rescinding the stop-work order on technical and scientific activities have been satisfied. Hence, the lifting of the stop-work order is now incremental with the WMPO approval of the SIPs and associated QALAs.

The status of the USGS SIPs is as follows. Sixteen SIPs have now been approved by the WMPO. Twenty-six SIPs are currently in review at the WMPO, ten of which are for on-going activities. All SIPs associated with on-going activities have been submitted for WMPO review.

B. Site Characterization Plan (SCP)

The technical and editorial review of SCP Chapter 8 is ongoing. Assignments have been made to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and participant staff for completing required revisions. All text markups and accompanying comment response forms are expected to be returned to SAIC by October 23, 1987. At that time a consolidated markup copy of the SCP will be prepared.

Reference verification of citations in Chapter 8 is continuing. This verification process includes Code of Federal Regulations citations as well as literature citations.

Development work on the Reader's Guide to the SCP continued. It is anticipated that this effort will be completed by the end of October 1987.

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As a result of the meeting held in Washington, D.C., on October 6 with the Office of Geologic Repositories (OGR), Sections 8.3 and 8.5 of the Consultative Draft of the SCP will contain no specific dates or timelines (absolute or elapsed time from start). The only exception will be a milestone table in Section 8.5.6 that will be provided by the OGR. A Gantt chart or logic diagram will be provided for each investigation and information need presented in Section 8.3. Summary graphics of all investigations will be provided in Section 8.5.

On October 14 and 15, Project staff attended the SCP Overview Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. This committee is responsible for a policy review of the SCP. The topic of the meeting was a presentation on the Scope of Site Characterization.

On October 15 and 16, project staff attended the Site Evaluation Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting was held to discuss site activities most important for comparative evaluations of the proposed sites.

C. Core Sample Management

None to report.

II. Significant Accomplishments/Information Items

All field activities related to prototype testing at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) remain suspended due to labor union disputes.

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) has incorporated comments from the WMPO and Technical Project Offices (TPOs) into the document entitled "NNWSI Repository Waste-Handling Equipment Development Plan," thus completing Milestone P156 (a precursor to Level I Milestone N406). A copy of the final draft of the SNL report will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy/Headquarters (DOE/HQ) pending notification by DOE/HQ of their availability to begin the review process.

The WMPO has announced successful completion of an Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Records Management and Technical Data meeting. Preliminary steps for establishing the technical data component of the Information Management System/Licensing Support System were taken and progress on the Automated Records System was discussed. Representatives of various Project participants attended the meeting, which was conducted on October 6 through 8.

LLNL has announced that all reporting has now been completed for the Spent Fuel Test-Climax.

DOE/HQ hired consultant Roger Rinaldi to review Yucca Mountain pre-site selection drilling program because of concerns over inflated costs. His recommendations, outlined in his report, were criticized by WMPO and drilling contractor staff.

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The USGS has announced that Dale Hammermeister has left the NNWSI Project. Alan Flint has subsequently assumed responsibility for Test Cell "C" and the project's administrative duties.

Personnel representing all major NNWSI Project participants attended a briefing in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 14 and 15 to brief Carl Gertz (WMPO, Project Manager) on the status of prototype testing.

A meeting between the WMPO and the TPOs was conducted on October 15 and 16 to renew and discuss the material that will be presented during the Project Office FY 1988 Planning Reviews to be held at DOE/HQ on October 27 and 28, 1987.

III. Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
A. <u>Coordinating Group Meetings</u>			
Tuesday-Wednesday, October 21-22	Waste Package/Repository Design Interface Group meeting	Albuquerque, NM	D. Irby, WMPO
Thursday, November 5	Socioeconomic Program meeting	Las Vegas, NV	E. Lundgaard, WMPO
Wednesday-Thursday, November 18-19	Internal DOE/OGR HQ/PO's meeting	Albuquerque, NM	E. Lundgaard, WMPO
B. <u>HQ Meetings</u>			
Tuesday-Wednesday, October 27-28	FY 1988, Program Planning meeting	Washington, DC	W. Dixon, WMPO
Thursday, October 29	Project Managers' meeting	Washington, DC	V. Davis, WMPO
C. <u>Internal Project and DOE/NV Meetings</u>			
Tuesday-Friday, October 14-16	Nevada Association of Counties	Ely, NV	E. Lundgaard,
Tuesday, October 20	DOE/NV Manager's meeting	Las Vegas, NV	V. Davis, WMPO
Monday, October 26	Project Manager and TPO meeting	Las Vegas, NV	J. Fiore, SAIC
Thursday, October 29	Consultation w/ State of Nevada	Carson City, NV	E. Lundgaard, WMPO
Wednesday, November 4	Sample Overview Committee meeting	Las Vegas, NV	U. Clanton, WMPO

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
D. <u>State and Public Interaction</u>			
Tuesday, October 20	Nevada Legislative Committee on High Level Radioactive Waste	Reno, NV	V. Davis, WMPO
E. <u>NRC Interaction</u>			
None to report.			
F. <u>Other</u>			
Saturday, October 17	Society for Profes- sional Journalists (Project Manager, WMPO, will speak)	Las Vegas, NV	V. Davis, WMPO

WMPO:WRD-184


for Carl P. Gertz, Project Manager
Waste Management Project Office



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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: October 27, 1987
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find enclosed more information that appeared in
our local newspaper that is of interest.

PTP:nan

TVA power chief blasts nuke waste dump plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — The Tennessee Valley Authority's nuclear power chief says in a confidential memo a federal nuclear waste warehouse proposed for Tennessee is not in TVA's best interest, a Nashville newspaper reported.

Steven White says in the memo to TVA General Manager William Willis the planned monitored retrievable storage facility, or "MRS," is "not in TVA's best interests and therefore should not be supported." The Tennessean reported in its Sunday editions.

The warehouse would package and temporarily store waste intended for permanent storage at an undetermined location in the western United States. Candidate sites for the permanent dump are in Texas, Nevada and Washington. The U.S. Energy Department

has planned for two years as part of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to place the warehouse at Oak Ridge, Tenn., despite criticism from Tennesseans who claim the MRS is unnecessary and fear it may become a permanent nuclear dump.

TVA, a seven-state power and economic development agency based in Knoxville, Tenn., has not taken an official position on the issue.

White criticizes the depot in his Aug. 6 memo to Willis as being an unnecessary expense that would cost TVA ratepayers about \$200 million more than storing the agency's own nuclear waste at its power plants. The TVA nuclear plants — none of which are currently operating because of safety problems — have sufficient on-site storage capacity, White said.

"This proposal is not considered to be in TVA's best interests and should not be supported since it would require payment by TVA and use of MRS regardless of our own spent fuel storage capabilities and plans," the memo says.

In the memo White advocates TVA support of a review of the Energy Department's entire waste storage program. The review has been proposed by Sen. Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., and Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz. The study would push back for at least 18 months all waste disposal plans

and cancel the department's immediate plans to build an MRS in Tennessee.

"The program review would be used to develop constructive program modifications in order to re-establish consensus support and credibility and allow progress in the NWPA," White wrote.

The bill should not be supported because it does not call for an independent review of the storage program, authorizes the MRS and "will not provide complete and enduring solutions to the wide range of issues affecting the NWPA," White wrote.

LAS VEGAS SUN

Tuesday, October 27, 1987

Vucanovich meets energy chief

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., met privately Monday with Energy Secretary John Herrington to lend her support for a moratorium on siting a nuclear waste repository and the future of Nevada Test Site.

Yucca Mountain, 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas, with Hanford, Wash., and Deaf Smith County, Texas, are the three finalists to become the nation's first high-level nuclear repository, but the House has launched a bill to stop scientific studies at all three sites and appoint a commission to evaluate the program.

"I was anxious to discuss my support for a moratorium on the siting of a nuclear waste repository, as well as my concerns for the future of the Nevada Test Site," she said.

Herrington "agreed that it is vital to restore credibility to the nuclear waste program," Vucanovich said.

Vucanovich said she discussed a bill sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., to put a stop to the siting process. She said she was encouraged by Herrington's support for her amendment, which would allow states and Indian tribes to bid to the Department of Energy to become the nuclear repository site.

Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., has offered a bill with \$100 million a year to the sited state that will

accept the nuclear waste dump. "Secretary Herrington felt that this (Vucanovich amendment) was acceptable and should be made part of any new legislation on nuclear waste policy," she said.

Vucanovich also sought Herrington's assurance "that the Nevada Test Site, a major employer in Southern Nevada, remain an active and vital part of America's defense system."

The test site has been plagued for 43 days with 10 unions on strike. Department of Energy officials said Monday the strike was not affecting underground nuclear tests, but budget slashes could eventually take a toll on numbers of workers and projects at the test site.

"I think it is important to get his support for the test site, particularly in the light of a potential treaty with these Soviets," Vucanovich said. "We discussed the possible additional and alternative uses for the test site and the secretary recognizes what a valuable asset it can be, now and in the future."

Herrington told her he supports a test ban treaty only if it includes a verifiable reduction in the level of nuclear weapons, Vucanovich said.

"Secretary Herrington assured me that he saw no reason that the Nevada Test Site would diminish importance," she said.

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WM Record File

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WM Project

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Docket No.

PDR

XLPDR

Distribution:

KEB

MDR

Youngblood

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Ainehan

XWastler

(Return to WM. 623-SS)

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