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SUBJECT: Response to Senator Johnson's Question #7

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Proposed Response to Question 7 from Senator Johnson

Q7: DOE issued stop work orders to contractors at the Hanford site and the Yucca Mountain site beginning in 1986 because of concerns about inadequate quality assurance programs.

--Please explain why the Department felt these stop work orders were necessary.

--What is the current status of QA programs at these sites?

--When does the Department anticipate all stop work orders will be lifted?

Ans: The stop work order at the Hanford Site was issued because of the lack of a documented management control system. A readiness review board was formed in July of 1986. Actions which needed to be taken were identified and documented. A readiness review report was completed in May of 1987 showing the status of these actions. The report included a recommendation to partially lift the stop work so that the contractor could initiate the preparation of work packages.

Each work package will be individually reviewed and approved by DOE before stopped work can be resumed. The contractor is now preparing these work packages which describe the work to be performed and the quality controls to be applied. Work is expected to be resumed over the next few months.

Minor revisions to the QA Plan for Hanford are currently being made to incorporate comments received from the NRC. The revised Plan will be issued in a few months.

The stop work orders at the Yucca Mountain site were issued because of a lack of planning documentation and a lack of quality level assignments. The Planning documents and quality level assignments are reviewed and approved by DOE for each work task before work is permitted to be resumed. A partial lifting has been effected for all participating organizations except one. The planning documentation is now largely complete and quality level assignments are also well under way. Much of the stopped work has already been resumed. Most of the remaining work will be resumed over the next few months. It has not been possible yet to establish a firm date for fully resuming all stopped work at Yucca Mountain.

Minor revisions to the QA Plan for Yucca Mountain are also underway to incorporate comments received from the NRC. Issuance of the revised Plan is imminent.

July 10, 1987

RW-24

Response to Senator Johnson's Question #7

James P Knight, RW-24

Attached is the proposed response to Senator Johnson's question.

Carl Newton
Carl Newton, RW-24

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