

October 3, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Barbara D. Meehan  
Contracting Officer  
Contract Management Branch No. 1  
Division of Contracts and Property  
Management, ADM

FROM: Shirley L. Fortuna  
NRC CNWRA Deputy Program Manager  
Program Management, Policy Development  
and Analysis Staff, NMSS

SUBJECT: PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 1998 FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR CNWRA

By letter dated September 16, 1997, NRC received projected foreign travel for fiscal year (FY) 1998 from the CNWRA for review and approval. NRC staff has completed its review and has provided the results of the review on the attached list. Specifically, the list denotes whether the staff has approved (A) or disapproved (D) the proposed trip, and if approved, has ranked the priority as either high (H), medium (M), or low (L).

Attachment: As stated

CONTACT: Barbara A. Stiltenspole, NMSS/PMDA  
415-7815

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OFC	PMDA/NMSS <i>BA</i>	PMDA/NMSS <i>BA</i>						
NAME	BStiltenspole	SLFortuna						
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**REVISED PROJECTED FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR FY98**

PURPOSE OF TRIP	NAME	DATES	LOCATION	PROJECT NO.	PAPER TO BE PRESENTED	NRC REVIEW
<p align="center"><b>DATA GATHERING ON VITRIFICATION OPERATIONS</b></p> <p>During these visits CNWRA staff will assist NRC gain first-hand knowledge of operational safety issues and experiences associated with these plants. Some of these plants have been operating for more than 20 years and have used technologies similar to and relevant to the technologies proposed by the TWRS privatization contractors. The discussions with the European counterparts will facilitate NRC/CNWRA in conducting safety reviews associated with the TWRS privatization projects and developing regulatory guidelines for anticipated regulation of privatized DOE solidification facilities.</p>	Jain Pabalan	Nov. 1-8, 1997	Sellafield, UK; Marcoule and LaHague, France; and Mol, Belgium	5709-102	No	(A)
<p align="center"><b>ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA</b></p> <p>This is the premier meeting of geoscientists. Sessions span the full range of sciences and, thus, provide an excellent forum for presenting and receiving critiques on NRC-funded geological studies.</p>	Stamatakos	1st Qtr. FY98	Toronto, Canada	5708-471	Yes	(A) (M)
<p align="center"><b>FIELD WORK AT CAMARGO (MEXICO)</b></p> <p>The purpose of this trip is to continue geological and geophysical studies at Camargo started last year during a reconnaissance study of the area. Camargo offers an unusual opportunity to examine the control of basaltic magma by faults.</p>	Stamatakos Connor Hill	2nd Qtr FY98	Camargo, Mexico	5708-461 5708-471	No	*** (A) (H) (2) (M) (1)
<p align="center"><b>INTERNATIONAL COLIMA VOLCANO CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>Dr. Hill has been invited to participate in the 6th Annual International Colima Volcano Conference in Colima, Mexico. This is a selective, international meeting of volcanologists who are active in the fields of volcanic hazards assessment and physical volcanology. He will present the results of CNWRA hazards-assessment research at Cerro Negro volcano, Nicaragua, at this prestigious meeting. Benefits include international recognition of CNWRA volcanology program, interactions with active researchers in volcanology and risk assessment, and exposure to recent advances in hazard-assessment methodologies.</p>	Hill	2nd Qtr FY98	Colima, Mexico	5708-461	Yes	(A) (H)

**REVISED PROJECTED FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR FY98 (CONT'D)**

PURPOSE OF TRIP	NAME	DATES	LOCATION	PROJECT NO.	PAPER TO BE PRESENTED	NRC REVIEW
<p align="center">DATA GATHERING ON VITRIFICATION PLANTS</p> <p>During these visits CNWRA staff will assist NRC gain first-hand knowledge of operational safety issues and experiences associated with these plants. The Russian plant has the largest melter operational to date and hence the operational safety issues are relevant to the large melter technology proposed by the TWRS privatization contractors. The discussions will facilitate NRC/CNWRA in conducting safety reviews associated with the TWRS privatization projects and developing regulatory guidelines for anticipated regulation of privatized DOE solidification facilities.</p>	Jain Pabalan	May 9-15, 1998	Mayak, Russia (Close to Moscow)	5709-102	No	(A)
<p align="center">COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN WATER RESOURCES</p> <p>This is a biennial conference, with about 200 attendees, that alternates between Europe and the Americas. This meeting provides opportunities for technical exchanges on unsaturated porous media flow and transport, multiphase flow, and fracture flow.</p> <p>These gatherings are very useful for discussions of the most current numerical methods, applied to difficult problem areas such as unsaturated porous media flow and transport, multiphase flow, and fracture flow. An abstract (due at the end of September 1997) has been prepared for the conference the abstract discussed the numerical techniques used at CNWRA/NRC for estimating shallow infiltration. It would be desirable to host this meeting in the future. Attendance at the FY98 meeting is required to ensure meaningful consideration by the organizers of an CNWRA/NRC hosted meeting.</p>	TBD	June 15-19, 1998	Patras, Greece	5708-861	Yes	(A) (M)
<p align="center">EUROPEAN SAFETY AND RELIABILITY CONFERENCE</p> <p>This is the premier European conference on Safety &amp; Reliability. Topics include environmental risks, probabilistic systems analysis, risk analysis methods, software reliability, uncertainty and sensitivity analysis, and vulnerability analysis. A paper on Importance Analysis will be presented.</p>	Sagar	June 17-19, 1998	Trondheim, Norway	5708-761 5709-103	Yes	(A) (M) **

**REVISED PROJECTED FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR FY98 (CONT'D)**

PURPOSE OF TRIP	NAME	DATES	LOCATION	PROJECT NO.	PAPER TO BE PRESENTED	NRC REVIEW
<p align="center">INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON VOLCANIC HAZARD</p> <p>Author was invited to this international meeting that brings together volcanologists, sociologists, economists and city planners to evaluate volcanic crises preparedness and management in megacities and densely populated area.</p> <p>A large number of communities, including megacities are growing around and even upon active and dormant volcanoes. Large populations are presently exposed to volcanic hazards. In such situations, volcanic risk mitigation is mandatory for any modern society. Many countries are preparing emergency plans devoted to volcanic crises preparedness and management through the collaborative work of specialists in a variety of fields, such as volcanologists, civil authorities, civil defense officials, land managers, city-planners, sociologists and the mass media. During the meeting specialists from different disciplines and active in areas with different volcanological and socio-economical environments will be brought together and will have the opportunity to compare their own experiences. Such a comparison allows the formulation of common strategies for assessment of and response to volcanic hazards.</p>	Connor	June 28 to July 4, 1998	Rome and Naples	5708-461	Yes	(D)
<p align="center">THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIPHASE FLOW</p> <p>The objective for attending this conference is to present a paper entitled "Depression of the Boiling Isotherm by Flow Down a Fracture" and exchange information and ideas with international investigators in the important area of multiphase flow.</p> <p>This is a major international conference on multiphase flow and NRC/CNWRA will benefit from the conference by presenting the results of the laboratory scale heater test for international peer review. Additionally, the state-of-the-science information that will be presented at the conference will be of value for issue resolution activities of DWM.</p>	Green	July 8-12, 1998	Lyon, France	5708-661	Yes	(A) (H)

**REVISED PROJECTED FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR FY98 (CONT'D)**

PURPOSE OF TRIP	NAME	DATES	LOCATION	PROJECT NO.	PAPER TO BE PRESENTED	NRC REVIEW
<p align="center"><b>MEETING OF THE NATURAL ANALOG WORKING GROUP</b></p> <p>The Natural Analog Working Group (NAWG) is an ad hoc organization devoted to promotion of natural analog studies in radioactive and toxic waste studies. The NAWG has been supported by the European Community. Dr. Murphy has participated consistently in the NAWG with support from the NRC since 1990. He has recently been nominated to be the national representative for the U.S. in the NAWG. His nomination has been formally endorsed by the CNWRA and the NRC. A planning meeting for the NAWG is anticipated for FY98 at a European location, although details are not yet available. As the U.S. national representative, Dr. Murphy's participation in this meeting would be required.</p> <p>Participation in this meeting is important to ensure timely and complete awareness of investigations in other countries as U.S. budgets for technical investigations in support of radioactive waste disposal decrease.</p>	Murphy	TBD	TBD	5708-561	Yes	(A) (H)
<p align="center"><b>DRY TRANSFER SYSTEM (DTS) SITE VISIT</b></p> <p>The objective of this trip is to become familiar with the DTS technology used in France. There is no DTS facility available in the USA. The DOE has submitted a non-site specific DTS Topical Safety Analysis Report (TSAR) for NRC review and issuance of a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) that can be referenced by applicants, including DOE, seeking to design and construct site specific DTS under a 10 CFR Part 72 license. The visit of the DTS facility by a CNWRA staff member will enhance CNWRA capability to review the DTS TSAR as well as future reviews of site specific DTS SRS, and will obtain information for use by other NRC and CNWRA participants in such reviews.</p>	Chowdhury	TBD	Cogema, France	1404-001	No	(D)

NRC Review (Division Level).

- A = approved
- Priority is high, medium, or low
- D = disapproved

\* These trips involve direct field work on funded KTI activities. Presentation of investigations will be in project deliverables and in peer reviewed journals.

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\*\* The DWM Portion (5708-761) is approved; the TWRS portion (5709-103) is disapproved.

\*\*\* Two are approved as high priority; one at medium priority.