



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

JAN 26 1988

NOTE TO: B.J. Youngblood, Chief
Operations Branch, HLWM

THRU: J. Kennedy, Section Leader
Quality Assurance
Operations Branch, HLWM

FROM: W. Belke
Operations Branch, HLWM

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT FOR BASALT WASTE ISOLATION PROJECT (BWIP) ON STOP WORK
ORDER/RESTART, DECEMBER 10, 1987

On December 10, 1987, I attended a briefing on the BWIP Stop Work Order/Restart. The purpose of the briefing was to describe the specific actions taken to fully rescind the Stop Work Order issued to Rockwell by the Department of Energy (DOE) in May, 1986. Rockwell was replaced by Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) as the integrating contractor on June 29, 1987. A list of attendees at the December 10, 1987 briefing is provided in Enclosure 1.

Presentations from various representatives of the DOE, WHC, and Management Analysis Company provided information to indicate significant improvements have been made in the program to give confidence that it can proceed from a research and development operation to a scientific exploration operation. The presentations briefly described the efforts involved in the Stop Work Recovery Effort to assess each work activity and identify the necessary management and technical actions needed to accomplish each activity. This included the establishment of a DOE-RL Readiness Review Board and Independent Management Review Team. This in turn, resulted in more prescriptive quality assurance, quality control, and technical procedures involving improvements in such areas as employee training and qualifications, equipment qualification, nonconforming items and corrective actions to determine root causes of quality problems, increased surveillance and audits, tracking open items, evaluating resources and personnel to accomplish the specific activity, management and work activity assessments, and a program to determine trends adverse to quality. One notable improvement was the voluntary establishment of the employee "quality concern hotline" program which allows project personnel to express quality concerns with assurance that such concerns will be investigated and resolved. The concerned employee may request anonymity or be provided a documented response on the resolution of the expressed concern. All concerns are documented, tracked, and incorporated into a project record. Should the concerns not involve quality, they are referred to the appropriate organization for proper resolution.

Therefore, the stated quality improvements in my view, appear to provide sufficient evidence that the Stop Work Order be rescinded in order to proceed with the scientific investigation work. The representatives from the affected

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State and Indian Tribes appeared to agree with this decision since they expressed little or no adverse comments. As the NRC representative at the briefing, I stated that the NRC attendance did not mean the NRC fully accepts the QA program. NRC still has several open items on the BWIP and BOARD QA program plans resulting from our review and evaluation against the NRC Review Plan. In addition, for the NRC to fully accept the BWIP QA program, we will need to continue assess its implementation through team audits and observation audits. However, the systematic and thorough approach by which the BWIP has assessed the readiness of the contractor to restart work has provided the NRC staff a significant measure of confidence.

Due to the voluminous amount of handouts and material from the Stop Work Order/Restart briefing, and in the interest of paperwork reduction, the information and documents pertaining to the briefing were not included as an enclosure to this report. They are available for review in my office (WF1-4-H-24) for any interested individual.



W. Belke
Operations Branch, HLWM

cc: QA Section

ENCLOSURE 1

BWIP & JP WORK ORDER / START BRIEFING

12.10.87.

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* - Presentation