



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Office of Repository Development
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A
Project No. WM-00011

OCT 07 2004

OVERNIGHT MAIL

Mr. Lawrence E. Kokajko, Deputy Director
Technical Review Directorate
Division of High Level Waste Repository Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Subject: Notification of Additional Trenches and Test Pits Proposed for Closure

Dear Mr. Kokajko:

References: (1) Ltr, Brocoum to Bell (NRC), dtd 10/30/98 (Trenches and Test Pits to be Backfilled)
(2) Ltr, Bell to Brocoum, dtd 11/18/98 (Trenches and Test Pits to be Backfilled)

This letter is an update of the status of trenches and test pits since Reference 1.

We are providing for your review information describing trenches and test pits being considered for closure during fiscal year 2005. Enclosure 1 provides a list of the trenches or test pits, along with a description of their coordinates. Please note that we have ascertained that these trenches and pits have been appropriately logged and the data has been entered into the Records Information System. Please also note that while Enclosure 1 references Trench 14 as one of the trenches to be filled, the U.S. Department of Energy has determined that Trench 14 should remain open because of its historical importance to the program, and the controversy which has been associated with it. A technical direction letter was sent to the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, on August 11, 2004, instructing the contractor that while they may develop plans for trench closure, Trench 14 is to remain open for access.

Backfilling the trenches and pits would commence once we receive comments from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and have funding in place. We would appreciate any comments by November 15, 2004.

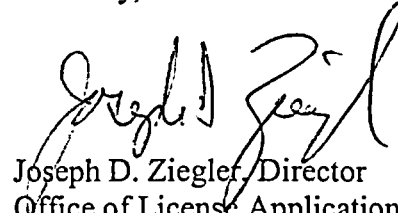
Mr. Lawrence E. Kokajko

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If there are any questions regarding this activity, please contact Carol L. Hanlon at (702) 794-1324 or e-mail carol_hanlon@ymp.gov, or Drew H. Coleman at (702) 794-5537 or e-mail drew_coleman@ymp.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Ziegler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ziegler" clearly distinguishable.

Joseph D. Ziegler, Director
Office of License Application and Strategy

Enclosure:

Ltr, 6/22/04, Fray (BSC) to Mellington,
w/encls

OCT 07 2004

cc w/encl:

Jack Guttman, NRC, Rockville, MD
P. S. Justus, NRC, Rockville, MD
D. S. Rom, NRC, Rockville, MD
D. D. Chamberlain, NRC, Arlington, TX
D. B. Spitzberg, NRC, Arlington, TX
R. M. Latta, NRC, Las Vegas, NV
J. D. Parrott, NRC, Las Vegas, NV
B. J. Garrick, ACNW, Rockville, MD
H. J. Larson, ACNW, Rockville, MD
W. C. Patrick, CNWRA, San Antonio, TX
Budhi Sagar, CNWRA, San Antonio, TX
J. R. Egan, Egan & Associates, McLean, VA
J. H. Kessler, EPRI, Charlotte, NC
M. J. Apted, Monitor Scientific, LLC, Denver, CO
Rod McCullum, NEI, Washington, DC
W. D. Barnard, NWTRB, Arlington, VA
R. R. Loux, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV
Pat Guinan, State of Nevada, Carson City, NV
Alan Kalt, Churchill County, Fallon, NV
Irene Navis, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV
George McCorkell, Esmeralda County, Goldfield, NV
Ron Damele, Eureka County, Eureka, NV
Michael King, Inyo County, Edmonds, WA
Andrew Remus, Inyo County, Independence, CA
Mickey Yarbrow, Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
Spencer Hafen, Lincoln County, Pioche, NV
Linda Mathias, Mineral County, Hawthorne, NV
L. W. Bradshaw, Nye County, Pahrump, NV
Mike Simon, White Pine County, Ely, NV
R. I. Holden, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

cc w/o encl:

M. G. Bailey, NRC, Rockville, MD
F. D. Brown, NRC, Rockville, MD
G. P. Hatchett, NRC, Rockville, MD
N. K. Stablein, NRC, Rockville, MD



JUN 22 2004

QA: N/A

Suzanne P. Mellington, Director
Office of Facility Operations
U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Office of Repository Development
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134

RECEIVED BY BSC CCU
DATE: 07/08/2004

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC28-01RW12101 – BECHTEL SAIC COMPANY, LLC (BSC)
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO BACKFILL AND RECLAIM IDENTIFIED TRENCHES
DURING FISCAL YEARS 2005 AND 2006

For environmental compliance and safety reasons, BSC Site Operations and the Test Coordination Office recommend backfilling inactive open trenches at the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) during the October through December time frame of Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006. The identified trenches, listed below, were excavated in the 1980's through 1997. These have not been in use for several years.

Trench Name	Status	X Coordinate (SPCZ)	Y Coordinate (SPCZ)
UE-25 BUSTED BUTTE TRENCH	Active	577575	732282
UE-25 FRAN RIDGE TR1	Active	575087	745257
UE-25 FRAN RIDGE TR2	Active	577830	753200
UE-25 TR #14a	Active	569239	765575
UE-25 TR #14b	Active	569120	765060
UE-25 TR #14c	Active	569169	765268
UE-25 TR #14d	Active	569200	765043
UNK TRENCH DRILL HOLE WASH	Active	562838	771009
USW GDF-TR-1	Active	562217	761550
USW GDF-TR-3	Active	562328	764054
USW GDF-TR-3A	Active	562328	764099
USW GDF-TR-5	Active	562335	762465
USW GDF-TR-5A	Active	562266	762442
USW SCF-TR-4	Active	556175	759865
USW TR-4	Active	562330	764285
USW TR-8	Active	555389	749607

Note: SPCZ equals State Plane Central Zone Coordinates, in ft.

The above sites were identified for potential closure based on the following criteria:

1. Trenches on public lands that do not require badge access represent a safety hazard to the general public and would be closed in compliance with the *Federal Land Policy*

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and Management Act; Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Right-of-Way Reservation (ROWR). The trenches in Crater Flat and Solitario Canyon, USW TR-8 and USW SCF-TR-4, fall under this criterion.


2. Trenches and pits on land under the jurisdiction of Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada Test Site, and BLM that were disturbed by site characterization activities would be closed in compliance with the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act; Bureau of Land Management Right-of-Way Reservation (ROWR)*, and the *U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 450.1*. USW GDF-TR-1, USW GDF-TR-3 and 3A, USW TR-4, USW GDF-TR-5 and 5A, and UNK TRENCH DRILL HOLE WASH fall under this criterion.
3. Trenches the ESF used for site characterization and support activities that are no longer needed would be closed in compliance with *DOE Order 450.1, Biological Opinion for Site Characterization*, and dust control stipulations in the *Yucca Mountain Project Class II Air Quality Operating Permit, number AP9199-0573.01*. Three trenches located at Busted Butte and Fran Ridge, UE-25 BUSTED BUTTE TR, UE-25 FRAN RIDGE TR 1, UE-25 FRAN RIDGE TR 2, and the trench 14 complex (trenches 14, 14A, 14B, 14C, and 14D) fall under this criterion.

Closure of trenches and pits that are no longer required would eliminate the need for costly inspections, walk downs, and maintenance. Many of these trenches do not meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety requirements and are restricted from personnel access until significant design and major reconfiguration, excavation, shoring effort is performed to bring them into compliance. Closure eliminates the need for this costly upgrade to those trenches.

In order to recognize that a number of organizations have potential interests in these trenches, BSC is requesting approval for trench backfilling. Enclosures one (1) and two (2) contain maps of the trench locations.

Please respond to this letter by official DOE transmittal to indicate your approval of the backfilling of the trenches indicated.

If you have any questions, please call Richard G. Kovach at (702) 295-6180.


Russell E. Fray
Repository Operations Manager

6/22/04
Date Signed

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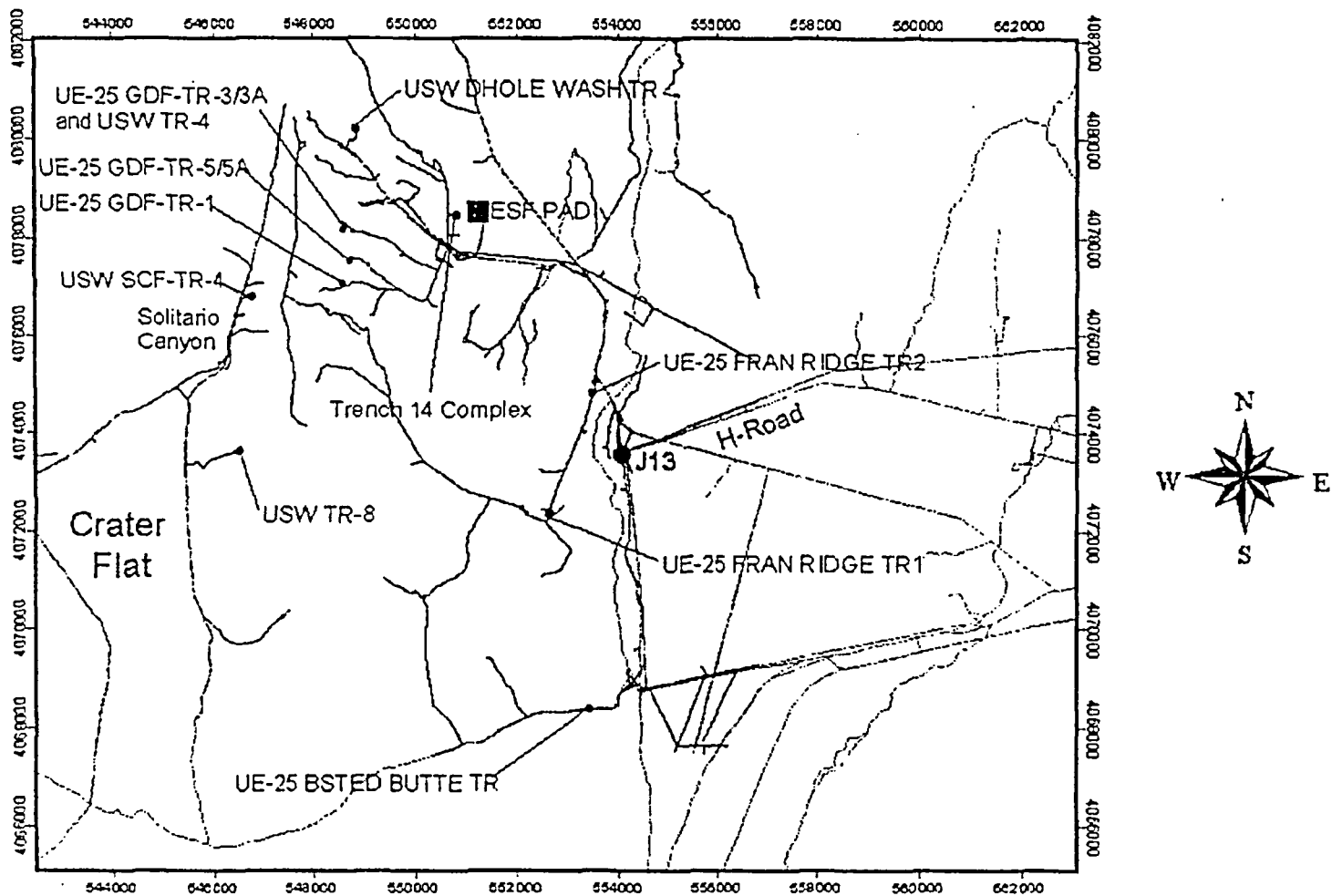
Enclosures:

- (1) Location of Open Trenches Locations Created by YMPSC Studies.
- (2) Location of Trenches within Trench 14 Complex

cc w/encls.

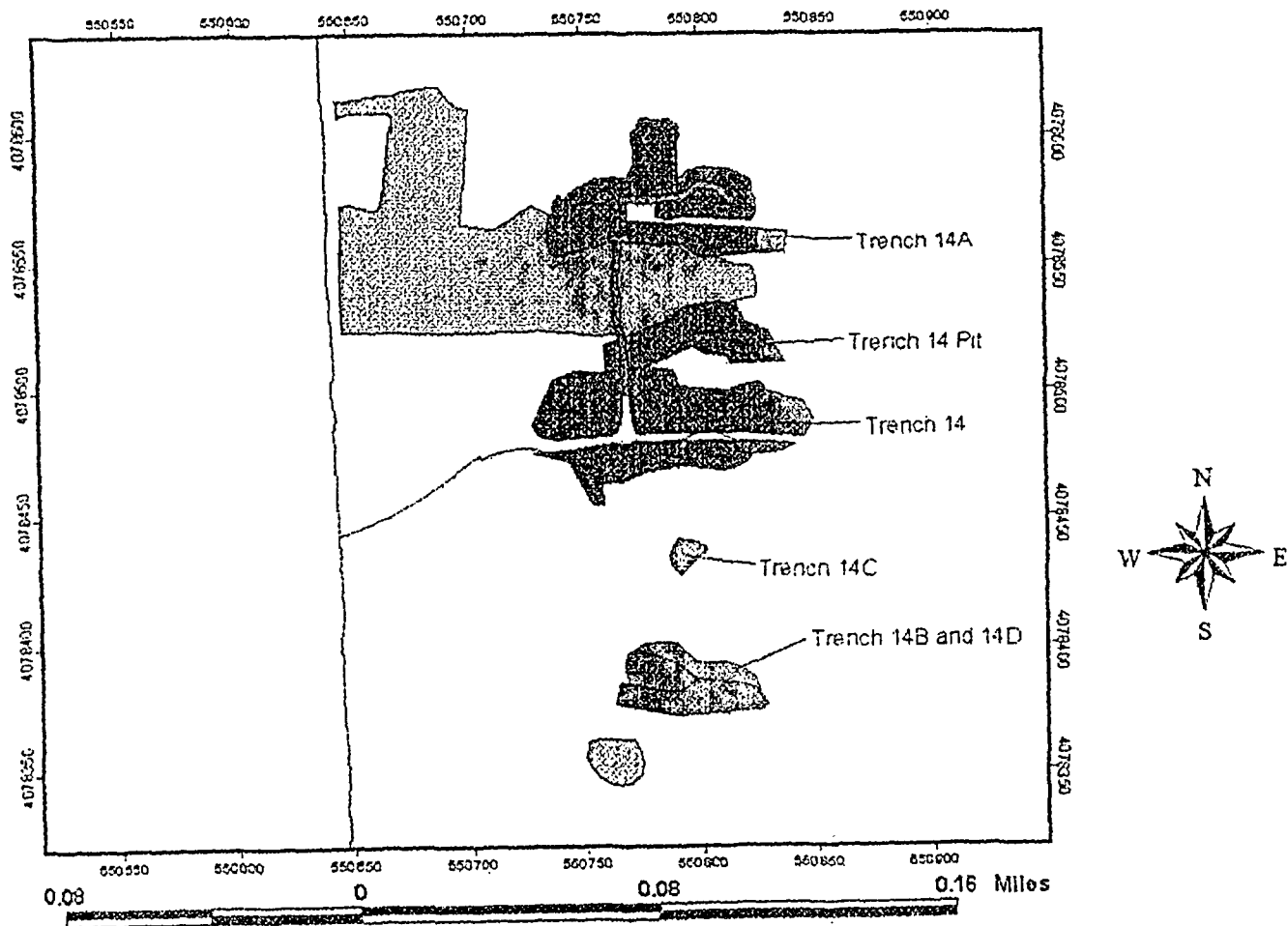
W. J. Arthur III, DOE, Las Vegas, NV
R. G. Kovach, BSC, Las Vegas, NV
M. G. McCullough, BSC, Las Vegas, NV
J. T. Mitchell, Jr., BSC, Las Vegas, NV
R. R. Moore, BSC, Las Vegas, NV
Nelson O'Connor, BSC, Las Vegas, NV
K. W. Powers, DOE, Las Vegas, NV
E. C. Shyloski Jr., BSC, Las Vegas, NV
P. D. Stucker, DOE, Las Vegas, NV
M. T. Sullivan, BSC, Las Vegas, NV
S. A. Wade, DOE, Las Vegas, NV
D. J. Weaver, BSC, Las Vegas, NV

Enclosure 1



Location of open trenches created by Yucca Mountain Project site characterization studies.

Enclosure 2



Location of trenches within Trench 14 Complex