



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY
ASSESSMENT OFFICE**

Drawer L, Independence, California, 93526

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Katy Walton
Company: CalTrans
Phone: (619) 872-0691
Fax: (619) 872-0678

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h/m on machine

From: Brad Mettam
Company: Inyo County
Phone: (619) 878-0380
Fax: (619) 878-0382

Date: 06/14/93

**Pages including this
cover page: 8**

Comments: As you requested, here are the meeting memorandums regarding our trip last week.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Yucca Mountain Repository
Assessment Office
Extension 0380

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Chamberlin, Planning Director

FROM: Brad Mettam, Yucca Mountain Project Coordinator *BM*

DATE: June 14, 1993

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TECHNICAL PROJECT OFFICER (TPO) MEETING
IN LAS VEGAS ON JUNE 11, 1993

Each month the Yucca Mountain Project Office holds a meeting to allow its various Technical Project Officers an opportunity to brief each other (and interested observers) on the current status of each area of the project. The agenda for this month's TPO meeting is attached for your review. The key items discussed are noted below:

- Linda Smith, the new Acting Associate Director for Geologic Disposal, was introduced. Ms. Smith will actually head the Nevada site characterization effort, with Carl Gertz (the Project Manager) being relegated to heading the technical activities of the project. There had been rumors that Gertz was out of favor with the new Secretary of Energy, having told her that the project has been following the recommendations of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (this was later contradicted by the Board chairman).
- Senator Bennett Johnston (D-LA) introduced an amendment to take Nuclear Waste Disposal activities "off-budget" in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee he chairs. If the amendment makes it through the legislative process, it would allow the Department of Energy to spend at least the \$600 million contributed by the nuclear utility rate payers annually to the Nuclear Waste Fund. This would at least double the funds available to the Department of Energy for site characterization and other activities. In response to questions, Carl Gertz reaffirmed that he would request that 5% of the amount spent on site characterization activities be allocated to oversight (the State of Nevada, the affected units of local government, and the Nevada University System).

- The \$13 million contract for the tunnel boring machine has been let to a Kent, Washington firm. The machine, which will be used to bore the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF), is due in the spring of 1994. Construction of the ESF will take three to four years.

One of the technical items, the Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC), was also discussed at length at the Transportation Coordination Group meeting. A critical consideration of the MPC is that use of this system would require the use of rail, as these packages would range from 75 to 125 tons. If you are interested in the current status of any of the technical studies described on the agenda, I will be happy to discuss them with you.

AGENDA
YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT - PROJECT MANAGER'S/TPO MEETING
JUNE 11, 1993, FRIDAY
SAIC CONFERENCE ROOM 450

TIME	WILAT	WHO	EXPECTED OUTCOME
9:00-9:15	Welcome & Introductions o Review Agenda	C. Gertz	
9:15-10:00	Status of Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project	C. Gertz	Understand Current Status of Program and Project
10:00-10:15	Status of Design and Construction Effort Supporting the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF)	W. Simecka	Understand Current Status of ESF Design and Construction Effort
10:15-10:30	Status of Site Characterization Testing Program and Preparation and Approval of Study Plans(SPs)	R. Dyer	Understand Current Status of Testing Program and SPs
10:30-10:45	BREAK		
10:45-11:15	Mined Geological Disposal System (MGDS) Thermal Loading Study	S. Saterlie	Focus the Range of MGDS Thermal Loading Options
11:15-11:45	Large Block Tests at Fran Ridge	D. Wilder	Understand Current Status of Design and Test Planning Activities
11:45-12:00	Effects of Earthquakes in California During May 1993 on the Water Levels in the Vicinity of Yucca Mountain	L. Hayes	Understand Fluctuation of Water Levels due to Earthquakes
12:00-12:15	Status of the Multipurpose Container (MPC) Studies	G. Vawter	Understand the Status of MPC Studies
12:15	ADJOURN FOR LUNCH		



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Yucca Mountain Repository

Assessment Office

Extension 0380

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Chamberlin, Planning Director

FROM: Brad Mettam, Yucca Mountain Project Coordinator *BKM*

DATE: June 14, 1993

SUBJECT: REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (TEC) MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JUNE 9-10, 1993

I attended this periodic transportation activity update meeting with Ms. Katy Walton of the California Department of Transportation, as the first joint activity conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently signed by the County and Caltrans. This MOU formalizes our intent to work cooperatively with Caltrans to determine the potential transportation impacts of a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain. It also gives the Repository Assessment Office the ability to pay or reimburse direct expenses incurred by Caltrans in this effort. As California State employees are finding it nearly impossible to travel out of state, Ms. Walton would have been unable to attend this meeting without the County's assistance.

Having a Caltrans representative at this TCG meeting had three major benefits. First, we were able to make some important contacts, including Mr. Dan Nix of the California Energy Commission, who is the governor's representative to both the Western Interstate Energy Board and the Western Governors Association WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Project) Technical Transport Group. I was also able to introduce Ms. Walton to John Epps and Maria Coulson of the University of Nevada-Reno (a potential resource for physical infrastructure studies), and Katie Grassmeier, the head of the transportation section at the Department of Energy Yucca Mountain Project Office, among others.

Secondly, this meeting provided the best possible overview of the current and future status of transportation issues in the Yucca Mountain project that Caltrans could have received. I have attached a copy of the meeting agenda for your review. As you can see, it covered virtually all of the critical current issues, including the recent work of the State of Nevada,

the status of the search for a Monitored Retrievable Storage site and the recent Multi-Purpose Canister proposal. I doubt if I could have devised a better or faster way to bring Caltrans staff up to speed on the key issues.

Finally, following the meeting we had the opportunity to visit staffers at Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congressman Lewis' offices. We described our intent to perform cooperative studies and provided each of them with a copy of the MOU. I feel that the joint effort was well received (especially in Senator Boxer's office) and well worth the trip.

In addition to showcasing our cooperative intentions, I was also able to discuss the upcoming (July 12) meeting between the affected units of local government (the counties) and the new Secretary of Energy -- and the planned meeting between the counties and the Nevada and California congressional delegations on the same day.

U. S. Department of Energy
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 1993 Transportation Coordination Group Meeting
 Hyatt Regency Crystal City, VA
 Final Agenda

Tuesday, June 8, 1993

6:00-8:00	Early Registration	Lobby of Second Concourse
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Wednesday, June 9, 1993

8:00-9:00	Continental Breakfast/Registration	Regency Room
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9:00-9:15	Welcome/Discussion of DOE Reorganization	Ron Milner
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9:15-10:30	State of Nevada Update University of Nevada County Update	Bob Halstead Maria Ardila-Coulson Philip Blount
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10:30-11:00	Break	
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11:00-11:20	Comment from Moapa Band of Paiutes, Nevada Yucca Mt Project Update	Calvin Meyers Katie Grassmeier
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11:20-12:00	MRS Update Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians Mescalero Apache Tribe	Vic Trebules (S.Q-Trans) Danny Quintana Fred Peso
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12:00-1:15	Lunch	On Your Own
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1:15-2:15	Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC) Overview/Update Transportation Implications of MPC Concept Utility Perspective on MPC Concept	Jeff Williams Bill Teer Bob Rasmussen
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2:15-2:45	Transportation Program Update	Jim Carlson
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2:45-3:15	Break	
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3:15-3:45	Discussion of WIEB report "Transportation Implications for Various NWPA Options"	WIEB
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3:45-4:15	EM Transportation Institutional Overview	Judy Holm
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4:15-4:45	Utility Update/EEI/UWASTE	John Vincent
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6:00-7:30	Reception Hors D'oeuvres / Cash Bar	Tidewater Room
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**U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1993 Transportation Coordination Group Meeting
Hyatt Regency Crystal City, VA
Final Agenda
(Continued)**

Thursday, June 10, 1993

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:15 Cooperative Agreement Updates

**NCAI
CVSA
SSEB
WIEB
MOCSG
CRCPD
NCSL**

9:15-10:15 Full Scale Cask Testing

**William Lake
Bob Halstead
Ray Lambert
Thomas Sanders
Susan Smith**

10:15-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Discussion of OCRWM Risk Analysis Efforts

**John Mayer
S. Y. Chen
Michael Conroy**

**12:00-12:30 Concluding Comments
(Review of Action Items)**

Jim Carlson

12:30 Adjourn