

April 30, 1987

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OCRWM Bulletin

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United States Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Kennedy Washington, DC 20585

April 1987

DOE Sends Proposal To Congress For Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility In Tennessee

On March 31, 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy submitted to Congress a proposal for a monitored retrievable storage (MRS) facility to be built in Tennessee as a part of the Federal system for management and permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste (see figure on page 2).

The proposal was submitted after the U.S. Supreme Court removed the final legal barrier by refusing to review an Appeals Court decision lifting an injunction. The State of Tennessee had obtained the injunction from the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

In its proposal, DOE recommends that Congress:

- approve the construction and operation of an MRS facility at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site at Oak Ridge, Tennessee;
- direct DOE to take specific measures responsive to the concerns and recommendations of State and local governments;
- adopt legislative language ordering DOE to implement the plan submitted to Congress for the development of the MRS;
- adopt a legislative limitation of 15,000 metric tons on the spent nuclear storage capacity of the MRS; and

- adopt a provision precluding DOE from accepting waste at the MRS until a construction authorization for the first deep, geologic repository is received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

DOE developed the proposal for an MRS facility in Tennessee under the terms of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA), which directed DOE to complete a detailed study of the need for and the feasibility of such a facility. The NWPA also directed DOE to submit to Congress a proposal for construction of one or more MRS facilities.

DOE's proposal is accompanied by an environmental assessment that examines three alternative sites and six site-and-design combinations, as well as a program plan that describes the activities, costs, and schedules for siting, constructing, and operating an MRS facility and integrating it with other waste disposal activities and facilities authorized by the NWPA. DOE proposes the MRS as a packaging facility that will improve the performance of the overall waste management system. Comments from the Environmental Protection Agency, NRC, and the State of Tennessee also were provided with the proposal.

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Published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)

For further information about the national program or for copies of new publications and documents listed in the "OCRWM Bulletin" contact the U.S. Department of Energy, OCRWM, Office of Policy and Outreach, Mail Stop RW-40, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 (202) 586-5722. The OCRWM Information Services Directory is available to provide sources of program information for the States, Indian Tribes, involved parties, and the public.

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DOE Sends Proposal to Congress For Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility in Tennessee

(continued from page 1)

If Congress approves DOE's proposal, the development, construction, and operation of the MRS would cost about \$3 billion. About 1,000 workers would be employed during the construction and 600 would be needed to operate the facility. Most of these costs will be offset, however, by savings at the repository and in at-reactor storage costs. These costs would be paid from the Nuclear Waste Fund set up by the NWPAs which is financed by the generators of the waste and would not be paid from the general funds of the U.S. Treasury.

If Congress approves this proposal, DOE would immediately seek to enter into a written consultation and cooperation agreement with the State of Tennessee. This agreement would serve as an "umbrella" contract between DOE and the State of Tennessee and would formalize arrangements for further State and local involvement. DOE proposes that one of the key features of such involvement would be the establishment of an

MRS Steering Committee that would provide advice, conduct performance evaluations, and recommend corrective actions. The committee could play an important role in providing information to the public about the safety of the facility as well as ensuring that State and local perspectives are fully considered in all key programmatic decisions.

To allow the State and local communities to plan and prepare for the MRS facility, DOE proposes to provide State and local governments annual financial assistance payments in the form of impact mitigation funds and annual payments equal to the taxes that would have been collected had the MRS facility been subject to taxation. This financial assistance would be in addition to reimbursements to State and local governments for work performed for the MRS project.

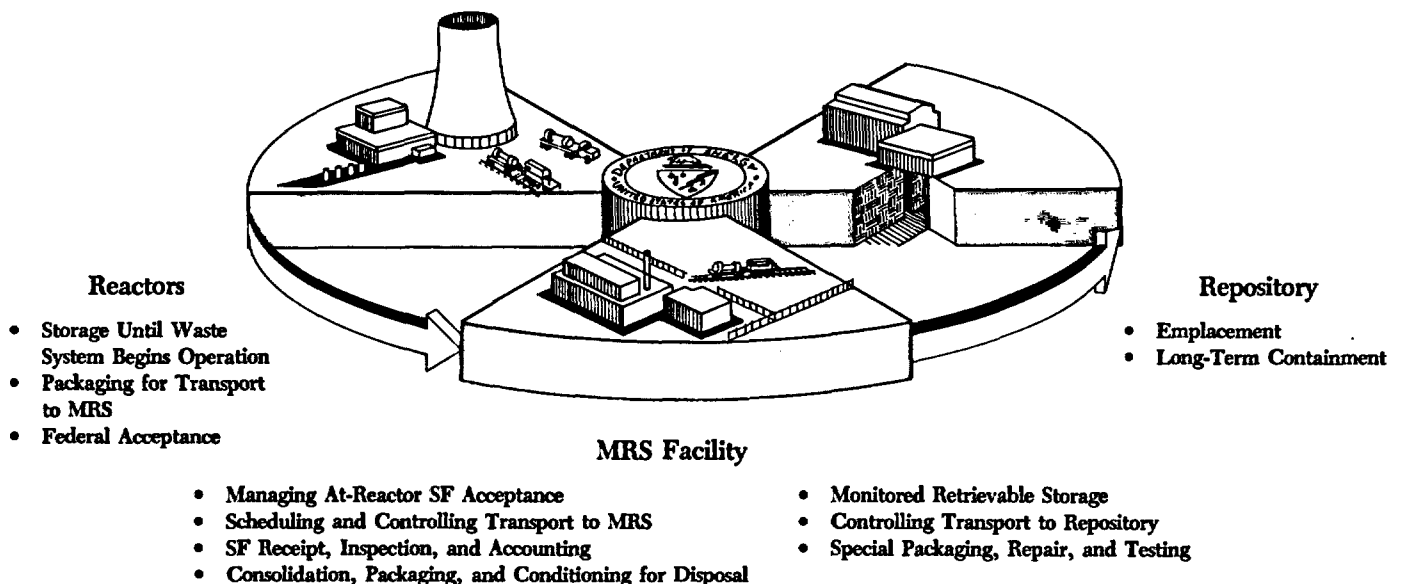
Copies of the proposal may be obtained by calling (202) 586-5575 or by writing to:

U.S. Department of Energy
MRS Proposal
Room 1E182
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585 ☆

Currently Scheduled OCRWM Short-Term Program Milestones

- 4/87 Submit Annual Report to Congress
- 5/87 Submit Annual Fee Adequacy Report to Congress
- 6/87 Submit Mission Plan Amendment to Congress
- 6/87 Issue Final *Federal Register* Notice on Defense Waste Fee
- 7/87 Issue First Annual Capacity Report
- 8/87 Issue Site Characterization Plan for Tuff Site
- 9/87 Issue Draft Environmental Regulatory Compliance Plans

DISTRIBUTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS IN A SYSTEM WITH AN INTEGRATED MRS FACILITY



Legend: MRS — Monitored Retrievable Storage, SF — Spent Fuel

Highlights of NRC/DOE Meeting on Site Characterization Plan Issues Hierarchy and Issue Resolution Strategy

The site characterization program is based on two basic principles. The first is the issues hierarchy, which is a systematic series of four key issues and subordinate issues. These issues are concerned with the ability of a mined geologic disposal system to perform in compliance with the applicable Federal regulations. The second principle is the issue resolution strategy. That is, the rigorous procedure for determining how each issue is to be resolved. It is through the resolution of each individual issue in the hierarchy that the performance of the mined geologic disposal system at a specific site will be demonstrated during the licensing process.

On March 3-4, 1987, DOE held a meeting in Washington, DC, to brief the NRC on DOE's generic issues hierarchy and issue resolution strategy and solicit comments. The briefing included a description of the approach, known as performance allocation, that will be used for identifying and planning the work

needed to support resolution of issues. Affected States and Indian Tribes were invited to participate in the meeting. Representatives from the States of Mississippi and Utah and from the Yakima Indian Tribe and Council of Energy Resource Tribes, representing the Nez Perce and Umatillas, also participated in discussions. By familiarizing the NRC, States, and Tribes with the framework being used to organize, plan, and conduct site characterization, DOE hopes to facilitate the understanding, review, and comment on the site characterization plans (SCPs) when they become available.

During the briefing, the NRC raised various points and questions such as how the issue resolution strategy would be developed for individual issues; how quality assurance would be incorporated in the SCPs; and how an integrated testing program derived from the issue resolution strategy would be developed

and modified as necessary as site characterization proceeds. Staff from NRC observed that they identified no fatal flaws in the generic issue hierarchy, issue resolution strategy, or performance allocation at the broad level contained in the materials provided them. Staff from the NRC indicated that they will follow up in future pre-SCP meetings on how the points raised are implemented.

DOE and the NRC made the following two agreements at the meeting:

- DOE reaffirmed its agreement from the Subsystems Performance Allocation Meeting held on September 26-27, 1985, to discuss tentative performance goals and confidence levels with the NRC staff in the appropriate project-specific technical meetings.
- DOE agreed to provide the generic issues hierarchy briefing to each of the NRC project teams. States and Tribes will also be invited to participate. ☆

Transportation Initiatives

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to Advise OCRWM on Overweight Truck Shipments

As one element of the process to determine the mix of transport modes for shipping spent fuel to facilities developed under the NWPA, OCRWM is evaluating the use of overweight truck shipments. Use of this transport option could significantly increase the payload of a single shipment and reduce the total number of shipments that would be required. While substantial safety and economic benefits could be realized, OCRWM recognizes that several related issues must be addressed.

To assist in the resolution of these issues, OCRWM has initiated discussions with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the national organization of State transportation authorities having principal responsibility for vehicle size and weight control in the United States. In response, AASHTO has organized a task force of State officials to assess and advise OCRWM on the feasibility of using

overweight trucks for NWPA shipments, and the potential for developing a national consensus on overweight truck permitting requirements and procedures. OCRWM will coordinate the results of this activity with the U.S. Department of Transportation for comment and review. The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Los Angeles on April 2.

General Factors Associated with Overweight Trucks

A primary factor to be considered in determining the feasibility of overweight truck shipments is the relationship of highway damage and vehicle weight. Under Federal law, the maximum gross (loaded) vehicle weight allowed on the Interstate highway system is 80,000 pounds, unless the State in which the vehicle is operating issues a permit for a greater weight. It is estimated that some 1.1 million permitted overweight shipments are made in this country each year. (Expected overweight shipments to NWPA facilities would be an extremely small fraction of the total number of permitted shipments.)

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U.S. Cooperation With Other Nations In Nuclear Waste Disposal

(The following excerpts are drawn from a paper presented at the Waste Management '87 Conference by Carl R. Cooley, OCRWM, and James F. Strahl, Roy F. Weston, Inc.)

"The DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), responsible for development of the technology for deep geologic disposal of high-level waste (HLW) and spent fuel, is cooperating with other nations and international organizations that are actively developing technology for the disposal of HLW and spent fuel. This cooperation ranges from the exchange of technical documents to full collaboration in sharing cost for underground research laboratories (URL). Specific project agreements are prepared in which the terms and conditions of the shared projects are established. OCRWM benefits from international cooperation in several ways: (1) it affords access to foreign technology, experimental data, and experience; (2) it allows the sharing of extensive underground test programs; and (3) it permits access to underground facilities in which OCRWM can evaluate testing methods prior to use in future U.S. facilities.

"In order to assure that planned exchange activities are beneficial, the OCRWM policy on international cooperation requires a benefits assessment prior to engaging in any new major international activity. As a result, OCRWM is closely cooperating with those nations and international agencies working on rock technology which complements or is consistent with the U.S. geologic repository program (i.e., salt and granite), especially those focusing on URL projects. These efforts include cooperative projects with the Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited (AECL) and the Organization for Economic and Cooperative Development/Nuclear Energy Agency

(OECD/NEA) in crystalline rock URL developmental work, recently complemented by crystalline URL activities in Switzerland, and a highly successful cooperative research project with the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) at a salt URL. The information and experience gained at these URL sites is of particular benefit to the U.S. geologic repository program, since OCRWM currently does not have to construct an expensive underground research laboratory of its own. In addition, DOE is cooperating with those nations maintaining advanced nuclear waste management programs in the development of repository



predictive response models. A significant portion of this work is being achieved through membership in the OECD/NEA and a multinational effort being coordinated by Sweden.

Salt URL Activities

"DOE and the FRG entered into a project agreement to collaborate in studies at the Asse Salt Mine in 1981...The major cooperative effort at the Asse Mine has been achieved through the Brine Migration Project, a large scale field test to simulate a waste repository in salt...The tests were initiated in 1983 and completed in 1985. The results showed that: (1) the average amount of absorbed water contained in the salt is significantly lower than assumed for the pre-test

calculations; (2) room closure and displacement are slightly different from predicted behavior; and (3) there is no significantly different behavior between nonirradiated and irradiated test sites...

"Currently, the FRG is constructing an underground facility at Gorleben in Lower Saxony in order to evaluate the suitability of the site for a repository. The techniques being used by the Germans are of great interest to DOE because of the potential application to the design and construction of facilities in Texas as part of the first repository siting process. Onsite liaison has been established in the FRG to assure the full benefit of the German experience.

Crystalline URL Activities

"Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, and France have extensive work underway in their predominantly available crystalline rock formations. In June 1986, OCRWM initiated through NEA a meeting of the directors of crystalline rock programs to exchange views on enhanced collaboration among the countries. The directors were in favor of continuing such meetings and to seek additional ways that each could benefit from closer cooperation. Currently, OCRWM has active technology exchange programs with Sweden (Stripa through the OECD/NEA), Canada, and Switzerland.

"The Stripa Test Facility is an abandoned iron ore mine in central Sweden...To date, OCRWM has obtained useful information in the area of instrumentation development, test procedure establishment requirements, and identification of which parameters are significant for model development...

"OCRWM cooperation with Canada centers on performing experiments in the AECL's URL in the Lac du Bonnet granite monolith in the Province of

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U.S. Cooperation with Other Nations in Nuclear Waste Disposal

(continued from page 4)

Manitoba. The URL has been excavated to a depth of approximately 240 meters into the previously undisturbed pluton. It will contain several hundred meters of experimental drifts in which thermo-mechanical, excavation response, and grouting/sealing tests will be performed. The joint project provides OCRWM the unique opportunity to gain experience and knowledge at high-quality research facilities in the characterization and behavior of crystalline rock, especially experience related to shaft extension through a fractured granite zone...

"DOE signed a bilateral agreement on waste management with Switzerland in the Spring of 1985 and has since formulated several project agreements to perform activities considered beneficial to the OCRWM geologic disposal program. The activities, expected to complement the work being performed at both Stripa and the Canadian URL, will focus on flow and transport through fractured media and take advantage of Switzerland's extensive experimental and data collection efforts at their Grimsel Pass URL...

International Agency Activities

"The OCRWM geologic repository program is currently participating with the NEA in: (1) technical workshops/groups focusing on repository performance modeling; (2) cooperative efforts in underground research laboratory activities; and (3) efforts through committee/study groups to demonstrate the safe disposal of radioactive waste. OCRWM also cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). IAEA activities include

exchange of scientific information on radioactive waste treatment, disposal, and spent fuel management...

Conclusions

"DOE will continue to focus cooperation on those nations and international organizations maintaining underground research laboratories and generic activities which can assist in the enhancement of the OCRWM geologic repository program. These include:

- Crystalline URL activities with the Canadian AECL, the OECD/NEA Stripa Project, and the Swiss Grimsel Pass are expected to continue to contribute significant insight to the type of information and testing methods that will be required to assist in the development and characterization of a deep geologic repository in the United States.
- Salt URL activities at the Asse and Gorleben facilities in the FRG are expected to provide experience and information useful for the U.S. geologic repository program.
- Development of repository performance models considered crucial to the OCRWM program is being assisted through activities with the OECD/NEA, the IAEA, and multinational efforts being coordinated by Sweden...

OCRWM recognizes the major benefits in continuing and enhancing international cooperation...The exchange and support among the many countries developing geologic repositories for radioactive waste attests to its importance." ☆

Federal Register Notice on Cooperation and Assistance with Nonnuclear Weapon States in Nuclear Waste Disposal

On April 3, 1987, DOE and the NRC published the fourth update, in accordance with Section 223 of the NWPA, of an offer to cooperate with and provide technical assistance to nonnuclear weapon states in the field of spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal. To date, 11 countries have expressed interest in the offer. These countries include Botswana, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

DOE is prepared to engage in the following kinds of cooperative activities with nonnuclear states and international organizations, consistent with published criteria, program demands, and authorization and appropriation of funds by Congress:

- provide information in the form of exchanges of documents and reports on DOE-funded research and development projects;
- arrange, on an appropriate basis, visits and briefings between foreign representatives and DOE and contractor personnel in those areas and facilitate, within the terms of applicable U.S. laws, regulations, and policies, contacts with private U.S. business entities and organizations with specialized capabilities in these fields;
- arrange consultations between foreign representatives and expert DOE and contractor personnel to review and comment on, as appropriate, other nation's proposed development program plans and facility designs;
- furnish, under mutually agreed terms, information on certain U.S. standards and verified computer codes that may be used for equipment, component, and facility design; and

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Federal Register Notice on Cooperation and Assistance with Nonnuclear Weapons States in Nuclear Waste Disposal

(continued from page 5)

- cooperate, as appropriate, with international organizations to disseminate information to nonnuclear weapon states.

In addition to the cooperation of DOE, the NRC is prepared to provide information to assist in the areas of health, safety, and environmental regulation of spent fuel management and disposal activities.

Nonnuclear weapon states will again be contacted through diplomatic channels to acquaint them with this proposal and to solicit expressions of interest. Inquiries about this notice may be sent to Ben C. Rusche, Director, OCRWM, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585 (202) 586-6850, or to James R. Shea, Director, Office of International Programs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555 (301) 492-7886. ☆

Transportation Initiatives

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Consistent with OCRWM's approach of studying all options for transporting spent fuel, present plans for development of casks uniquely appropriate for NWPAs shipments extend to the design of overweight as well as legal weight truck casks. Casks currently used for the highway shipment of spent fuel are designed to accommodate fuel that has been aged (out of the reactor) for about 6 months. Because of shielding requirements, these casks have a low payload-to-weight ratio. Existing legal weight trucks carry only one spent fuel assembly from a pressurized water reactor (PWR) or two assemblies from a boiling water reactor (BWR). A transport vehicle with such a loaded cask is close to the legal gross vehicle weight limit of 80,000 pounds. Overweight casks in current use increase the payload to three PWR and seven BWR assemblies. Future casks for transporting spent fuel to an NWPA facility will require less shielding because the nuclear material content will have aged for a minimum of 5 years, during which time its heat and radioactivity will have significantly decreased. Accordingly, the new design for legal weight casks could accommodate payloads of 2 PWR/5 BWR assemblies, while the overweight design could accept 4 PWR/10 BWR assemblies.

AASHTO Activities

The AASHTO Task Force has agreed to provide information and expertise that relate to establishing maximum weight limits beyond which highway damage would be considered unacceptable. According to mathematical procedures previously developed by AASHTO, the wear and tear on highway pavement increases exponentially as additional weight is added to a given vehicle axle. However, AASHTO procedures indicate that highway pavement wear can be diminished substantially by adding axles to a vehicle and/or by increasing the spacing between axles. A report by the Battelle Memorial Institute ("Overweight Truck Shipments to Nuclear Waste Repositories," BMI.OTSP-01, March 1986) has applied the AASHTO procedures to suggest that a properly designed overweight truck/cask system would cause only marginally greater wear on highways than legal weight trucks.

The AASHTO Task Force will also advise OCRWM on the acceptability to affected jurisdictions of routine overweight shipments. State fee requirements, operational requirements, and enforcement procedures are being reviewed preparatory to the development of criteria for proposed uniform State permitting requirements and procedures

for NWPA shipments. OCRWM believes that these criteria—developed through a consensus process—can be used to foster the establishment of consistent and stable permit systems.

Transportation Operations Management Configuration Study

DOE has awarded a competitive procurement to Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., to perform a transportation operations management configuration study. The study will involve identification and analysis of the different structures that could be utilized in the operations management of the transportation system being developed by the Office of Storage and Transportation Systems. This process reflects DOE's commitment, as required by the NWPA, to use private industry to the maximum extent possible.

A wide spectrum of management structures will be identified and evaluated. Some options for the transportation system are: total private operation, a combination of private/Federal operation, and total Federal operation. Functional considerations will include the use of a full-service contractor, the grouping of functions under a small number of contractors, and the use of specialized contractors.

The study will rank the management options based on OCRWM criteria. Results from the study will be utilized by DOE to begin formulation of a strategy to determine the management structure(s) to be utilized in the operation of the transportation system. The ultimate goal of DOE is effective management of both the overall transportation system and individual functions within the system.

The contract with Booz-Allen & Hamilton is managed by DOE's Oak Ridge Operations Office as part of the Transportation Operations Project Office activities. Further inquiries may be directed to Marianne M. Heiskell, Post Office Box E, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, telephone (615) 576-0314 or FTS 626-0314. ☆

Other Program Items**OCRWM Grant Awards in Fiscal Year 1987**

<u>Project Office and Grantee</u>	<u>Designated Agency</u>	<u>Grant Award (dollars)</u>
<i>Basalt Waste Isolation Project</i>		
Oregon	Department of Energy	500,000
Washington	Department of Ecology	2,374,829
Washington	State Legislature	847,556
Nez Perce	Tribal Executive Committee	1,214,476
Umatilla		860,377
Yakima	Tribal Council	1,682,680
Subtotal		\$7,479,918
<i>Chicago Project Office</i>		
Minnesota	Environmental Quality Board	124,703
North Carolina	Department of Natural Resources and Community Development	2,500
New Hampshire	Office of State Planning	18,000
Virginia	Department of Health	80,347
Wisconsin	Radioactive Waste Review Board	52,239
Fond du Lac	Business Committee	24,805
Menominee		18,109
Mille Lacs		6,992
Penobscot		15,889
Red Cliff		4,993
Stockbridge-Munsee		2,536
St. Croix	Tribal Council	7,774
Subtotal		\$358,887
<i>Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations</i>		
Nevada	Nuclear Waste Project Office	\$6,590,413
<i>Salt Repository Project Office</i>		
Mississippi	Energy and Transportation Board	315,817
Texas	Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council and Office of the Governor	2,583,780
Utah	Department of Community and Economic Development	250,000
Subtotal		\$3,149,597
Total		\$17,578,815

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Other Program Items

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Support Contractors Selected for OCRWM Project Offices

Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations

DOE's Nevada Operations Office has awarded a contract to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), La Jolla, California, to provide technical and managerial support for DOE's Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations.

The 6-month letter contract expires August 30, 1987. DOE and SAIC will soon begin negotiations for a 3-year contract with seven 1-year options. SAIC has had a contract since March 3, 1983, to provide DOE with support services for the high-level nuclear waste project.

Basalt Waste Isolation Project

DOE's Richland Operations Office has selected MAC Technical Services Company (MACTEC), a subsidiary of Management Analysis Company, San Diego, California, to provide services for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project.

MACTEC was chosen from among six firms that submitted proposals to provide quality assurance, technical, and project management services to BWIP under a 3-year contract. MACTEC and its

subcontractors, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, San Francisco, California, and Los Alamos Technical Associates, Inc., Los Alamos, New Mexico, will provide about 60 technical and 15 managerial and support personnel to DOE. In addition to the 3-year firm contract, MACTEC will be given seven 1-year options for renewal.

Texas Salt Repository Office Personnel and Telephone Number Directory

DOE personnel who have relocated to the Salt Repository Project Office in Texas at this time include:

Robert C. Wunderlic
Deputy Project Manager

Linda K. McClain
Manager, Institutional Relations

Theodore J. Taylor
Acting Field Services Director

Louis A. Parys
Contract Specialist

Margaret Jennings
Secretary

Battelle Memorial Institute personnel who have relocated at this time include:

John S. Treadwell
Deputy Program Manager

Kenneth R. Barker
Manager, Business Operations

Kenneth R. Schmader
Manager, Contracts and Procurement

Beverly A. Rawles
Manager, Information Systems

Robert E. Lincoln
Manager, Human Resources

Phillip D. Garinger
Secretary

Mailing information:

U.S. Department of Energy
Salt Repository Project Office
I-40 and State Road 385
Vega, TX 79092

Battelle Memorial Institute
I-40 and State Road 385
Vega, TX 79092

Any of the persons listed above can be reached at any of the telephone numbers listed below (in area code 806):

267-2143; 267-2144; 267-2145;
267-2171; 267-2172; 267-2187;
267-2188; 267-2197; 267-2198

For the Vega Information Office, call
267-2121 or 267-2122. ☆

Selected Events Calendar

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 5-7 | Environmental Coordinating Group Meeting, Seattle, WA. Contact Jerry Parker (202) 586-5679. |
| May 5-7 | DOE/NRC Meeting on Exploratory Shaft Design, Construction, and Testing in Texas, Hyatt Regency West, 13210 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX. Contact Owen Thompson (202) 586-5003. |
| May 12-13 | Spent Fuel Storage Technical Exchange Meeting, Germantown, MD. Contact Dwight Shelor (202) 586-2836. |
| Mid-May | DOE/NRC Meeting on Design Basis Accident Dose Limit, Washington, DC. Contact Edward Regnier (202) 586-4959. |
| May 20-21 | Technical Code Coordinating Group Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact Harold Steinberg (202) 586-5616. |
| May 28 | DOE Meeting with Repository States and Indian Tribes, Las Vegas, NV. Contact Judy Leahy (202) 586-8320. |
| July 14-16 | Institutional/Socioeconomic Coordination Group Meeting, Seattle, WA. Contact Carol Peabody (202) 586-1330. |
| July 26-31 | National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN. Contact L. Cheryl Runyon (303) 623-7800. |

For details on DOE/NRC meetings call (1/800) 368-2235 for a recorded message. In the Washington, DC, area call 479-0487.

A telephone recording service has been established for the announcement of upcoming meetings related to the waste management program of the NRC. The number is (1/800) 368-5642, ext. 79002. Washington, DC, area residents should call 427-9002.

For information on meetings and events occurring between issues of the "OCRWM Bulletin," use OCRWM INFOLINK, an electronic bulletin board that can be accessed through a standard computer communications capability on (202) 586-9359 or (202) 586-5406. The "OCRWM Bulletin" is now available through INFOLINK.

New Publications and Documents

Waste Acceptance Preliminary Specifications for the West Valley Demonstration Project, High-Level Waste Form

DOE/RW-0136, OGR/B-9, April 1987

These Waste Acceptance Preliminary Specifications (WAPS) specify the properties and requirements for the high-level waste forms to be produced by the West Valley Demonstration Project at West Valley, New York. The WAPS establish the minimum requirements that the West Valley waste form must meet in order to be compatible with any of the three geologic media (i.e., basalt, salt, or tuff) under consideration for the first geologic repository.

OCRWM Backgrounder: Activities During the Site Characterization Phase of the Geologic Repository Program

DOE/RW-0137, April 1987

This Backgrounder describes two kinds of activities to be undertaken during the site characterization phase of the geologic repository program. One type of activity includes a program of field and laboratory testing and studies to collect and evaluate geologic, hydrologic, and geochemical information. The other type of activity is comprised of environmental and socioeconomic studies that assess the potential impacts of repository development and operation.

OCRWM Backgrounder: Cooperative Demonstration Projects for Spent Nuclear Fuel

DOE/RW-0138, April 1987

Cooperative demonstration projects, undertaken with the nuclear power industry, are directed toward the efficient use by utilities of existing storage facilities and development of technologies for adding new storage capacity. This Backgrounder describes current rod consolidation and dry storage demonstration projects.

OCRWM Backgrounder: Studies of Alternative Methods of Radioactive Waste Disposal

DOE/RW-0139, April 1987

Prior to the passage of the NWPA, DOE assessed the use of geologic repositories and other nuclear waste disposal alternatives in an environmental impact statement. This Backgrounder provides an overview of the nuclear waste disposal alternatives to deep-mined geologic repositories.

OCRWM Backgrounder: Characteristics and Inventories of Nuclear Waste

DOE/RW-0140, April 1987

This Backgrounder describes the characteristics and inventories (current and projected) of the various forms of nuclear waste that are generated during the production of electricity in nuclear powerplants or during the production of nuclear materials for national defense.

OCRWM Backgrounder: Public Participation in the Development of the Transportation Institutional Plan

DOE/RW-0141, April 1987

The *Transportation Institutional Plan* addresses the interactions among all interested parties in resolving issues related to the establishment and operation of an NWPA transportation system. This Backgrounder provides a review of suggestions received from interested parties, and OCRWM's effort to effectively address such comments in the plan.

The following factsheets were reprinted in March 1987:

Shaft Construction and Sealing in Deaf Smith County, Texas

This factsheet includes up-to-date information on planned shaft construction techniques and answers commonly asked questions on how shafts will be constructed and ground water protected.

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New Publications and Documents

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Control of Excavated Salt, Deaf Smith County, Texas

The management of salt excavated for site characterization is described.

Questions and Answers About the Potential Effects of a Repository on the Ogallala Aquifer

This factsheet provides answers to commonly asked questions about potential effects of site characterization on the Ogallala Aquifer. It includes a description of the newer exploratory shaft concept and more recent water use figures from the final environmental assessments.

Geologic Repository Program and Studies in Texas

General background information for the general public and Hispanic school children in Texas. Text to be published in English and Spanish.

Evaluation and Compilation of DOE Waste Package Test Data, Biannual Report: December 1985-July 1986. Prepared by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) for the NRC. NUREG/CR-4735, Vol. 1.

This report summarizes results to date of NBS evaluations of DOE activities in waste packages designed for containment of high-level nuclear waste. Appended to this report are NBS reviews of selected DOE technical reports and NBS trip reports of pertinent meetings, seminars, and workshops attended.

Single copies are available, to the extent of supply, upon written request to the Division of Technical Information and Document Control, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

The following factsheets have been prepared by the Transportation Management Division, Office of Defense Programs, DOE.

Radioactive Materials Transportation: Emergency Response

Emergency response plans are in place to respond to any transportation accident involving radioactive materials. This factsheet contains information on guidance provided for State and local responders, available training, and handling of requests for aid.

Radioactive Material Shipping Regulations

This factsheet discusses shipping regulations that cover transportation of radioactive materials by rail, truck, water, and air.

Spent Fuel Transportation

This factsheet describes spent fuel, how spent fuel transportation is accomplished, and the routing of spent fuel.

Transporting Uranium Hexafluoride

This factsheet describes uranium hexafluoride, how it is produced, the transportation of uranium hexafluoride, and the packaging tests required before it is transported.

For copies of the Defense Program factsheets write to Transportation Management Division, DP-121, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20545 or call (301) 353-3506. ☆