
SUBJECT GROUNDWATER/VADOSE ZONE INTEGRATION PROJECT MEETING - MARCH 5, 2001

TO Distribution

FROM Michael J. Graham, Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Manager

DATE March 8, 2001

ATTENDEES
See Attached List

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NEXT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING:

Next Meeting: Monday, March 19, 2001 – 1-3 p.m.
Location: Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Assembly Room (Badging Required)
Local Call-In Number: (509) 376-7411
Toll Free Call-In Number: (800) 664-0771

MEETING MINUTES:

A Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project Open Meeting was held on March 5, 2001, in Richland, Washington, at the Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) Assembly Room.

PROJECT REPORT:

General Project Update (Michael Graham)

Schedule Update (Michael Graham) (Attachment)

There are a few highlights to mention. We have a couple of key milestones coming up – the Field Test Plan has been sent to U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) for review. The plan outlines work we are doing with other national labs. We will finish up the campaign of *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* (RCRA) well drilling by the end of March. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) meeting is coming up the last week of March in Washington, D.C. The NAS wanted to hear about the over-all S-SX field investigation and the work Science and Technology (S&T) has contributed. Several of us are going to the meeting to provide an update.

QUESTION: Has there been frequent interaction with them?

ANSWER: I would say there has been occasional interaction, maybe every couple of weeks.

QUESTION: Do you have any indication of what they are going to focus on?

ANSWER: No. The NAS puts out a consensus report.

The Integration Project Expert Panel (IPEP) meeting is scheduled for the end of April. We have held early discussions with the chairman regarding the agenda. They will be having a conference call between members either today or tomorrow to firm up the agenda. The tank farm investigations will be a focus for this meeting.

QUESTION: Will the NAS get involved with the 25 year Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) vadose zone studies?

ANSWER: They had plans early on for an NAS review of that. Now they're saying maybe not.

COMMENT: (Dib Goswami) I sent a note to John (Morse) about discussing more GW/VZ technology. Ecology requested a recommendation on technology for a monitoring tool for Hanford site. INEEL has been monitoring the situation and they are well aware of what is going on here. We requested their involvement. We would like to hear more about that at the IPEP. We are going to bring up that issue and would like their input.

ANSWER: We will communicate that to Dr. Ed Berkey.

April 9, 2001, is the national roadmap roundtable discussion on the plan. They are to finish their plan by September 2001. That roundtable will be held at Washington State University.

We are going to be out in the field with TW-1 and TW-2 starting next month. We've been making a lot of field work progress.

The Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report was issued on schedule last week. It is on the web page. If you want a copy, let me (Mike Thompson) know. Compact discs will be available as well.

COMMENT: (Dib Goswami) Ecology needs about five or six copies.

COMMENT: (Wade Riggsbee) I would like a copy as well.

QUESTION: How do we get the compact discs?

ANSWER: (Mike Thompson) When they are available, I'll bring them to this meeting.

In terms of other things, Tony Knepp's group has finished decommissioning the BX102 well.

(Tony Knepp) In about 2 months, we will move over to B-110. We'll be dealing with metals waste there. It will take about three weeks to get through the abandonments. We'll have the initial screening of data from BX-102 back sometime this week. It took us 45 days to drill it, and 25 days to abandon it. It usually doesn't take that much time to abandon a well, but it seems like we had one issue after another – industrial health, wind, and the earthquake. We got an excellent sample record. This was our first time through this type of waste.

System Assessment Capability (SAC) is busy wrapping up final documentation of history matching. The SAC group will be giving a presentation to IPEP.

QUESTION: Are you optimistic about the history matching?

ANSWER: So far it looks pretty good. We've been looking at it piece by piece. We'll look at how the whole thing matches up.

COMMENT: (Dib Goswami) Oregon and Washington are going to meet with the Integration Project on History Matching.

We wanted to have Steve Reidel or Alan Rohay over to share what they saw with the earthquake. But they are out in the field. Maybe they will be able to join us in two weeks.

Fred Mann is drilling an Immobilized Low-Activity Waste (ILAW) well. That will be done by the end of this month. We are keeping the drill rigs busy.

November 2000 Semi-Annual Report (Steve Sautter)

Each year two reports go out to Congress on the progress of the Integration Project. The current report covers the last half of fiscal year 2000. It has been approved for distribution and is out on the web. I also brought some copies with me today for those of you who would like to pick one up. We have already started working on the next report. It's a good tool to keep people updated with what is going on with the project.

We've been working with Senator Wyden's office. We've got Robert Katt under contract to help us out with the report. We've gotten it down to be pretty operational.

QUESTION: What's the nature of the relationship with Senator Wyden's staff?

ANSWER: They offer suggestions, offer ways of improvement. But, there are no official responses. It's basically a dialogue.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Michael Graham)

As for the calendar, there are several budget workshops coming up.

QUESTION: I'm anxious to see how you come out in that and what the proposed funding will be? How do you decide what's above and below the line? I will attend the workshop tomorrow. I'm curious to see what the proposed budget is and how well it matches all the needs.

ANSWER: I'm afraid you will be disappointed, as numbers will not be presented tomorrow.

COMMENT: (Mary Harmon) It was an executive decision. The numbers aren't available to any of us. A statement was issued and the budget is under advisement. They won't be able to say much. It isn't Richland's fault. They just don't have the data.

COMMENT: On the detailed work plan last summer, they had a pretty detailed estimate of the work.

ANSWER: We have a baseline of that scope of work. Every year we reconcile that with the targets.

COMMENT: You've got the estimates, but no target to match.

We won't have those numbers until April 3, 2001.

QUESTION: Is there any reason to continue to have the scheduled budget meetings?

QUESTION: The public, knowing what normally is presented at those meetings, is not going to be happy.

COMMENT: (Mary Harmon) Somebody should call Keith Klein's office and point that out. They aren't in a position to talk about numbers because they just don't have them.

COMMENT: It doesn't sound fruitful for the public.

COMMENT: (Dirk Dunning) I don't see any reason to come at all.

COMMENT: (Mary Harmon) Perhaps you could call Rich Holten and see what he has to say.

We will have another open meeting in two weeks. We will try to get someone from the seismic monitoring group here.

QUESTION: Are they reassessing canyons following seismic events?

ANSWER: Yes. The amount of movement in all directions was way below the thresholds.

COMMENT: I'm not sure that's a true statement. Reports indicate the quake exceeded the seismic limitations of at least one of the canyon buildings.

ANSWER: No, it did not. I have the report on that and I can send that to you via email.

Please do. That's what was in the Tri-City Herald this week.

QUESTION: (Dib Goswami) Can you put this meeting in Outlook?

ANSWER: Yes.

The Oregon Hanford Waste Board will meet at the end of the month. Several of us will be attending that.

QUESTION: What is the role of this stewardship? Where does it fit into the picture?

ANSWER: (Mary Harmon) They are responsible for reporting to Congress. We work through the regulators to establish goals. Concerning sites that are actually closing and have to have monitoring forever, they are trying to get it under one corporate umbrella. That's the best answer I can give you. We keep tabs on it and check. We always have to exercise our muscle to stay involved.

QUESTION: In the workshop, Jim Daly just left it wide open. He made it sound like establishment of clean up standards rather than maintenance.

ANSWER: We try to stay involved. The long-term stewardship program kicks in in 2047. Monitoring after the fact – stewardship.

QUESTION: Present EPA controls aim at five-year reviews and so forth. Things are not getting out of hand. I'm not worried about stewardship.

I think that was one of the objectives, to throw everything out there.

QUESTION: Is Jim Daly going to digest all of that and focus it in some way?

ANSWER: Yes. We've been working with Jim Daly. They tried to push a lot of things through prior to January 20th so they'd have their stamp on things.

QUESTION: I have a budget related question – every year the subject of priorities comes up. Is there any near-term way to use SAC in terms of which waste sites to tackle for present?

ANSWER: You could do that. But in reality the sites addressed are not based on risk.

COMMENT: I think it would help accommodate the whining that goes with the budget roll-out.

ANSWER: Rich Holten has given some funding for how to use SAC.

I don't think Tom Wood's far enough along. It'll be later in the year.

QUESTION: Is he also digesting the other studies? Someone should be reviewing all the information that's out there. A lot of analyses and interpretation is out there. I hope it isn't just getting put on the shelf somewhere. Is that part of his input?

ANSWER: Part of the funding coming to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is to do some of what you just mentioned - look at risk assessments done in the past.

(Don Clarke) We are planning next year's meeting. Harry's on it again. More sessions are planned for next year. We appreciate your participation.

Dib Goswami: There was some discussion of site-wide geophysical planing about two months ago. Is that on track?

ANSWER: It is out for DOE-RL review now. The logging will start in a couple of months and should be finished by the end of the year.

QUESTION: Can we have a copy of the work plan?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Can you give us any information about the transition of the project to Fluor?

ANSWER: No. They are still in the process of baseline for contract extension. It's premature to go into a discussion of how they're going to do the transition. The idea is to make the transition as seamless as possible. The official transition is June of next year. Bechtel will do all the planning for the transition. The Integration Project scope was slated to go to Fluor at the end of our contract.

NOTES:

GW/VZ Web Site location: <http://www.bhi-erc.com/vadose>

If you have questions or comments, please contact Steve Sautter (509-372-9692) or Alison Kent (509-372-9192).

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) GW/VZ Integration Project Two Month Look Ahead Calendar

ATTENDEES:

Marty Bensky – Tri-City Caucus

Don Clarke - DEC

Dirk Dunning – Oregon Office of Energy (by phone)

Dib Goswami – Ecology

Michael Graham – BHI

Mary Harmon – DOE-HQ (by phone)

Doug Hildebrand – DOE-RL

Kathy Huss – SAIC (by phone)

Alison Kent - BHI

Tony Knepp – CHG

Fred Mann – CHI

John Morse – DOE-RL

Wade Riggsbee – Yakama Nation

Gordon Rogers – HAB

Steve Sautter – BHI

Rod Skeen - CTUIR

Stan Sobczyk – Nez Perce Tribe (by phone)

Mike Thompson – DOE-RL

Ivana Witt – Yakama Nation

Rob Yasek - ORP

GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT
MARCH 5, 2001 – MAY 21, 2001
THREE MONTH LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR

March 5	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)
March 6	Hanford's 2003 Budget Workshop (Hanford House Red Lion, Richland, WA) 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
March 8	Hanford's 2003 Budget Public Meeting (Hanford House Red Lion, Richland, WA) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
March 13	Hanford's 2003 Budget Public Meeting (Portland State Office Building, Portland, OR) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
March 14	Hanford's 2003 Budget Public Meeting (Hood River Hotel, Hood River, OR) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
March 19	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)
March 20	Hanford's 2003 Budget Public Meeting (Seattle Center, Seattle, WA) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
March 27-28	Oregon Hanford Waste Board (Mission, OR)
April 2	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)
April 5-6	HAB
April 9	DOE Complex-Wide Vadose Zone Science and Technology Road Map Roundtable (Washington State University) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
April 16	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)
April 25-27	IPEP Meeting (BHI Assembly Room, Richland, WA)
May 3-4	HAB
May 7	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)
May 21	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Steve Sautter)

