

CCN 093419

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Meeting Minutes Cover Sheet

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Please find attached the Open Meeting Minutes from the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project of September 10, 2001.

If you have any comments or changes to these minutes, please reply to this email and your comments will be incorporated into the next meeting minutes.

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Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT GROUNDWATER/VADOSE ZONE INTEGRATION PROJECT MEETING -
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

TO Distribution

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

DATE October 12, 2001

ATTENDEES
See Attached List

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Attendees
GW/VZ Distribution List
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NEXT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING:

Next Meeting: Monday, October 1, 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 September 10, 2001, in Richland, Washington, in the Assembly Room at the Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) Building.

PROJECT REPORT:

Schedule Update (Michael Graham)

The first thing we should do is a project update. We are wrapping up a lot of work. We will talk about the Detailed Work Plan (DWP) a little later. The Integration Project Expert Panel (IPEP) is scheduled for the end of the month. Moses Jarayssi will cover that a little later during this meeting. We are finishing a lot of documentation under Characterization of System (COS), and Lou Soler will talk about some of the inventory documentation we have completed. The System Assessment Capability (SAC) has some of the outcomes of their modeling runs. They are going to be meeting with the regulators so they have the opportunity to look at it first. To update Science and Technology, the National Academy of Science chair of the committee, Chris Whipple, and Kevin Crowley were here last week to brief Keith Klein on their report on the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project. There also are some final reports that have been completed. The Groundwater/River interface is in review, and we have provided Tony Knepp with feedback on S-SX characterization. Regarding drilling, Crib T7A is the last hole we will complete this year. We had a big schedule push to get it done by the end of the year. The Pump & Treat systems are operating just fine. Mike Thompson will give an update on 618-11 tritium plume and the work will be done in the next couple of weeks. The rig that is now in the 200 Area will be used at Plutonium Finishing Plant. Tony Knepp's project is cranking out good work. They have completed two boreholes in the B Farm and

will be getting started in T Farm next year. Overall, everything has been done with good coordination.

This morning Tony reported that his project has met all their requirements for the year. The actual work for run-on control was accelerated and it was a very good effort.

Since Lou Soler has not yet arrived, we will start with Edye Jenkins.

Public Involvement Update (Edye Jenkins)

In the package you will find a couple of articles that have appeared in “The Hanford Reach”. In addition, are copies of the most recent Semi-Annual Report to Congress. We have several other articles that will hopefully be done by the next Open Meeting. We will have an article on the 200 Area Waste Site Assessment Project.

Also, the Hanford Immobilized Low-Activity Waste Performance Assessment has now been posted on the Integration Project web site. Be aware that it is 700 pages.

QUESTION: Is “The Hanford Reach” and the Internet the extent of your Public Involvement capability? When there is bad news, I see it on CBS evening news, but it seems harder to get to the good news.

ANSWER: No, we also are using news releases. “The Hanford Reach” is on the Internet. We also are working on some articles that we hope to have published.

QUESTION: Is the media made aware of where they can get the positive messages?

ANSWER: Currently we are working on an article regarding an ancient artifact, a spearhead, that was found on the site. We will release this information as a news release, and we hope to have follow-on local and national media interviews.

ANSWER: We did a press release a while ago that was picked up by KONA. That was heard around the area and was picked up by “The Nuclear Waste News.” We try to get the good news out.

COMMENT: Bad news rides a fast horse.

COMMENT: It’s hard to find good news, I guess because good news doesn’t sell.

Inventory Document Update (Lou Soler)

I have some copies of a report we funded through the Integration Project. We got together with subject matter experts from Fluor Hanford, Inc. Ron Borisch is the head of the department. These are the same folks that put together the huge uranium report that involved other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites as well as DOE-Headquarters (HQ). So this group is well seasoned. The report has been cleared for public release and takes a lot of the mystery out of nuclear production at Hanford. It talks about nuclear material as a whole, why and how it was produced. It explains the material unaccounted for and discusses the events that led to inventory inefficiency, and why they were occurring. One of the things that led to deficiencies in inventory was discrepancies on what was released. The report gets into a better way of measuring what was really produced and the role of the 300 and 200 Areas. It discusses normal operating losses and the factors that contributed to normal operating losses. The Integration Project wanted to make sure that we came up with a technical baseline in this report that would be cleared for public consumption. The report includes good flow charts that define inputs and outputs. It includes final distribution charts and

looks at the assumptions and where they ended up at. Please call me at 372-9439 if you have any questions. I may defer some of the questions to Ron Borisch who is located in the federal building.

REQUEST: Please send a copy to Oregon.

RESPONSE: We will make sure that you get one.

QUESTION: Is there someone here representing SAC? Will SAC use this information?

RESPONSE: This is something that SAC used, and it is now in referenceable form.

Lou worked with Fluor to get this document done. They are responsible for this report, and they agreed to publish it as a Fluor document for the Hanford Site. It does have the Integration Project on its cover, and we were intimately involved in getting it done.

Detailed Work Plan (DWP) Update (Michael Graham)

We had our DWP reviews two weeks ago. We thought you would like an update on what's in and what's out in 2002. For the 200 Area work, which is currently ER-02, everything goes to new work breakdown structures next year, and I haven't yet committed those numbers to memory. The high points are that it is above the line with a budget just under \$7 million dollars. Seventy percent (70%) of the work is in the field. Carbon tetrachloride is a major focus. We will wrap up work at tank waste sites. Another area of interest is the barriers, and we will start down the path for alternative barriers.

QUESTION: I'm assuming that Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) modified C is the first one?

ANSWER: Yes. We also have limited technology support, particularly regarding carbon tetrachloride. We also will leverage EM-50 funds.

On Groundwater, there is new scope related to the 5-Year review upgrades. Enhancements to the systems are above the line and have been integrated. There is a major push to determine why we are seeing breakthrough at ISRM. We will be doing coring and then testing to find out what the mechanism is for breakthrough. We will finish ISRM, except for four wells which will be completed FY03. What is out in the Groundwater area is technology support, we hope to get that above the line. Also routine well maintenance is below the line, but non-routine maintenance is above the line.

For Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration, in order to plan to current funding guidelines, we are budgeted for only one quarter. We expect that to change once the budget has been approved.

Mary, do you have anything that you would like to add?

(Mary Harmon) I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the reviews. We reviewed all the remediation programs and decontamination and decommissioning work, as well as the piece of work that Fluor will continue to manage in the 300 Area, which will ultimately be turned over to a new contractor. It was nice that both regulator departments were there for the reviews. Also, I would like to express my thanks to Gordon Rogers. He stuck with us for all three days, and he can now help us with the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB). Overall, everything went very well.

COMMENT: Thank you Mary. I really appreciated attending the Fluor day. There was a lot I can't contribute to, but it helps me to understand the immensity of the total task that we are trying to fund.

COMMENT: From a planning standpoint, we are in good shape.

QUESTION: Are you sure you are going to get flat funding?

ANSWER: We are all a little clueless right now. The national news tells us that there are shortfalls and problems, and until we get a budget it will be difficult. If we get what has been recommended, this program will go on as expected. If not, then we will have to really analyze priorities.

COMMENT: I hope that the Integration Project can help to make a contribution to a rational prioritization.

RESPONSE: When we get budget numbers there will be a lot of meetings for help and input in terms of what is the higher priority.

618-11 Update (Michael Thompson)

You will recall that there is a tritium issue in groundwater at 618-11. We obtained an agreement with the EPA to drill six boreholes along the suspected pathway of the tritium plume as the plume was defined by soil gas (Helium-3) investigations. The work is completed at the sited six boreholes. The results are pretty much compatible with what we expected. Most interesting is that about 500 meters to the northeast the tritium level has come in at 115,000 pico curies per liter. On the sampling and analysis plan, [Figure 3-1], Borehole #2, it is about 2,400 pico curies per liter. That tells us that we are dealing with a fairly narrow plume from a contained (small) source within the burial grounds. The flow is impacted by the basement of the Energy Northwest Generating Station that is constructed below the water table and serves as a groundwater dam, causing groundwater flow in the local area of the tritium plume to flow to the northeast. There is a plume that we can map that is at least 500 meters long. We will convert four of the boreholes into long-term monitoring wells to monitor the dynamics of the plume over time. The fieldwork will be finished by the end of September, and the monitoring report will be available to everyone.

QUESTION: The flow direction is due north?

ANSWER: No, between east and northeast.

QUESTION: Is this a fairly new plume?

ANSWER: There is a sharp gradient on that end, and until we get what is on the south, I don't want to speculate.

QUESTION: Where is the 8M?

ANSWER: 699-13-3A in the northeast corner of burial ground.

QUESTION: It looks like they are wrapping around, is that the source?

ANSWER: The source is in the northeast corner of the burial ground where the caissons and hottest materials went. At the end of the month we will have more data.

QUESTION: Do we have any historical information?

ANSWER: Qualitative not quantitative.

QUESTION: You say 5M and we used to hear 8M, is that a change at the same location?

ANSWER: Yes.

Integration Project Expert Panel (IPEP) September Meeting Update (Moses Jarayssi)

At the end of the package is the agenda for the meeting that takes place on September 26-28, 2001. There are quite a number of topics to be discussed the first day, which will include project updates. We then will go into the NAS Report. We will be joined by members of the NAS, via telephone, who will provide a briefing to the IPEP on the activities of that report. Another item, requested by Peter Wierenga, is an update on the complex-wide vadose zone effort. Following regulator, Tribal Nation, and stakeholder input, there will be a roundtable discussion centered on the Central Plateau Risk Standards. Tomorrow is our workshop on standards, and we thought we would share the outcomes of that workshop and get some guidance from the panel.

On the next day, we will discuss the findings and results of the initial assessment of the SAC. In the afternoon, we will go to the Groundwater remediation systems. We will talk about the 5-Year review and how we are reacting to enhancing the systems and designs, as well as our mitigation plan. Inventory, as it relates to modeling and assessments at Hanford, will be after the open discussion. We will talk about the needs of inventory as it relates to running the assessment.

The IPEP closeout remarks and public participation is scheduled for the last day.

It will be a full meeting, and we hope all of you will attend. We have had ongoing efforts between the group here and the IPEP members to work out the agenda.

Upcoming Events (Michael Graham)

Looking at the calendar, you will see that the IPEP is in 16 days. Then we will have another open meeting on the following Monday, October 1, 2001, and another meeting in November. On November 5 and 6, 2001, is the third Environmental Management Science Program workshop. These meetings have been very productive from an overall integration standpoint to keep the principle investigators focused on the Hanford problem. It looks like DOE-HQ also will have another Hanford vadose zone call, and some of the work that is currently being conducted may be able to carry on for a longer period of time.

COMMENT: I wanted to make everyone aware of a planned groundwater workshop sponsored by complex wide DOE Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB). It is being held on November 8-10, 2001. They plan to have an exchange of information from DOE, remediation contractors, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state regulators, plus SSAB members. The purpose is to make site-wide recommendations on what DOE should be doing to resolve groundwater remediation problems.

QUESTION: Are you going to that Gordon?

ANSWER: I'm afraid that I will have to. The Savannah River Board is the organizer. We have had a number of conference calls already. We have the registration packages out; Nancy Myers has a supply.

QUESTION: Is the full report of the NAS worth getting to read or is the summary report good enough?

ANSWER: There are some sections you will want to read that aren't captured in summary. Chapter 10 is a good chapter to read.

QUESTION: Is it available yet?

ANSWER: No, not yet. I don't know when it will get through publication; I think it is at the printer. When it's available, we should get numerous copies.

Does anyone have any suggested topics for next month? Anything in particular you would like to address? There is pretty good coverage at IPEP, but if there is anything you want to have covered, let us know.

QUESTION: History matching will come out in IPEP?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: When you review the initial site-wide assessment runs with regulators, is there a likelihood of outsiders sitting in?

ANSWER: I will check with those involved and let you know. That meeting should happen the week before IPEP.

RESPONSE: Then I will wait for the IPEP.

QUESTION: Anything from Oregon?

ANSWER: Nope.

Okay everyone, have a safe couple of weeks, and we will see you at the IPEP.

NOTES:

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

If you have questions or comments, please contact Karen Strickland (509-372-9236) or Alison Bryan (509-372-9192).

ATTACHMENTS:

1) GW/VZ Integration Project Six Month Look Ahead Calendar

ATTENDEES:

Martin Bensky – Tri-City Caucus
Dirk Dunning – Oregon Office of Energy
Michael Graham – BHI
Mary Harmon – DOE-HQ (by phone)
Kathy Huss – SAIC (by phone)
Moses Jarayssi – BHI
Edye Jenkins – ERC
Charles Kilbury – HAB
Doug Maddox – DOE-HQ (by phone)
Fred Mann – CHG
John Morse – DOE-RL
E. B. Nuckols – DOE-HQ (by phone)
Gordon Rogers – HAB
Karen Strickland – BHI
Mike Thompson – DOE-RL
Rob Yasek – ORP

GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001 – DECEMBER 12, 2001
FOUR MONTH LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR

September 10	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Edye Jenkins)
September 26-28	IPEP Meeting (BHI Assembly Room, Richland, WA)
October 1	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Edye Jenkins)
October 10	HAB/River Plateau Meeting
October 24	Oregon Hanford Waste Board
November 5	GW/VZ Project Open Meeting BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m. (Contact: Edye Jenkins)
November 5-6	GW/VZ EMSP Workshop (William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, Richland, WA)
November 6	HAB Meeting
November 13-15	Technical Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop (Albuquerque, NM)
December 12	HAB-PI