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SYSTEM PRIORITIZATION FIRST STAKEHOLDER MEETING
August 30, 1994

Background

The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Area Office has undertaken a process referred to as System Prioritization that is designed to: 1) define the current technical basis for assessing compliance with the long-term regulatory requirements of the WIPP site and; 2) to identify the remaining activities required for the complete demonstration of compliance with those regulations. The approach is designed to incorporate stakeholder and regulator concerns in assessing compliance and in directing the experimental program. The proposed process starts with the project defining the currently defensible state of knowledge in a particular technical area, followed by submitting that position (in the form of a 'white' paper) to the stakeholder/regulator for review. The review of the project white paper is then followed by a meeting between the project team and the stakeholders/regulator (ex. today's meeting) to discuss problems and concerns raised by the stakeholders and then finally, the white paper is updated to incorporate the stakeholder concerns. The accumulation of all of the white papers then forms the basis for future calculations in support of regulatory compliance and system prioritization calculations designed to identify the remaining activities required to achieve compliance.

The US EPA specified that performance assessment is the method of assessing the long-term safety of WIPP. Performance assessment is simply the framework for addressing three fundamental questions; 1) what can happen that affects the safety of WIPP; 2) how likely is it to happen and; 3) what are the consequences of it happening. Because performance assessment provides the basis for all long-term compliance calculations, the DOE/CAO has decided that it should be the first topic of discussion with the stakeholders and the regulator.

Objective of Today's Meeting

The objective of today's meeting is to: 1) elicit the issues and concerns that the stakeholders have with the system prioritization process as outlined by the DOE/CAO; 2) present the project white paper on performance assessment and; 3) elicit issues and concerns with the project's approach to assessing the long-term performance of WIPP.

Goals

1. Present the stakeholders with the current approach to the system prioritization process and performance assessment.
2. Address stakeholder concerns on the system prioritization process for stakeholder involvement.
3. Collect and capture stakeholder issues/concerns/alternative approaches to assessing long-term compliance.
4. Revise the performance assessment white paper based on the results of addressing the issues and concerns raised.

