



MEETING MINUTES

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee

April 13, 2009

DOE Nevada Support Facility, Sedan Conference Room
232 Energy Way, N. Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Members Present: Bob Gatliff, Chair; Bob Gamble (Nye County); Ted Schweitzer; Jim Weeks
Members Absent: Dave Hermann; John McGrail; Helen Neill (UNLV); Walt Wegst
U.S. Dept. of Energy: Kelly Snyder, DDFO; Rob Boehlecke; Bill Wilborn; Sigmund Drellack (NSTec); Ken Ortego (NSTec); Jeff Wurtz (SNJV)
Facilitator: Denise Rupp, Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

In opening remarks Bob Gatliff thanked UGTA Sub-Project staff for their efforts in keeping the UGTA Committee informed relative to the sub-project and, in particular, the drilling of the CAB-recommended well, ER-20-7. The Committee is eager to follow the progress of the drilling to determine the validity of their recommendation.

Bill Wilborn presented the map requested by the UGTA Committee detailing the proposed CAB wells, planned UGTA wells, existing UGTA wells, monitoring wells and underground test locations. The Committee reviewed the map and, having no suggestions for additions, requested copies be made available.

Mr. Wilborn will provide a date for the CAB to visit the drill site as the work schedule develops. It is currently anticipated the tour will be conducted in mid-June.

Ken Ortego outlined the Phase II Investigation Well Drilling in Western and Central Pahute Mesa and the drilling process for the Committee.

- This phase of the project includes nine proposed well sites prioritized according to importance of data acquisition needs
- Well depths to water range from just under 1,000 feet to more than 2,000 feet
- Well ER-20-7 drilling and completion was outlined detailing dimensions and depths with the zone of interest expected to be between 2,000 and 2,500 feet
- Typical well construction and completion process includes:
 - mapping
 - physical survey and staking of boundaries of site and access road route as well as the actual construction area
 - ecological/archeological/cultural surveys, review and approvals
 - construction of access roads, drill pad and sumps
 - installation and drilling of conductor hole and mainhole
 - well development, testing, sampling and periodic pumping
- Drilling is performed with air-foam circulation, not drilling mud, in order to keep the formation and water quality unaffected structurally and chemically.

Mr. Ortego clarified the following points in response to Committee questions:

- Stimulus money is helping to accelerate drilling of the nine planned wells with completion anticipated in three years
- The drilling process allows for water testing during the drilling process as well as geological sampling
- The air-foam method of drilling minimizes intrusion into the aquifer

Jeff Wurtz further outlined well development, hydraulic testing and groundwater sampling.

- UGTA Project Phase II Hydrogeologic Data Acquisition to be initiated in Summer of FY 2009 with 13 proposed well locations and three priority wells to be completed with hydraulic test and groundwater characterization samples collected in FY2009-FY2010
- Priority wells include ER-20-7 (CAB Well 2), ER-EC-1 and ER-20-8 to be constructed from 2,500 – 4,000 feet in depth
- Scope of Project
 - multiple completion zones and well configuration for specific aquifer testing and groundwater sampling
 - well development to reverse the effects of drilling with hydraulic testing via single well pumping
 - monitoring of existing observation wells during drilling
- Groundwater Characterization Sampling and Analysis
 - on-site monitoring of water chemistry prior to sampling conducted after well testing or purging with both commercial and project participant analysis
 - analytical parameters providing data for age and migration, radionuclides, physical chemistry and re-dox

In response to Committee questions, Mr. Wurtz clarified the following:

- Wells anticipated to encounter contamination will have lined sumps
- Re-dox measures types of iron in the water samples
- The same pump is able to isolate and draw water from three different aquifers within the well
- ER-20-7 will have two sampling zones as the potential for contamination is anticipated in the second aquifer zone based on current data
- Current data does not indicate potential contamination for ER-20-11; drilling plans include three aquifer zones
- Well names beginning with EC are located outside the Nevada Test Site (NTS) within the Nevada Test and Training Range; ER are Environmental Restoration wells located within the NTS; and, OV are United States Geological Survey wells located in Oasis Valley

Kelly Snyder suggested an update of the CAB well drilling may be of interest to the Full Board. Bob Gatliff will propose a CAB well update for inclusion in the July Full Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.