

R E V I S E D

January 29, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James R. Shea, Director,
International Programs
Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: SECY-91-007 - NRC PARTICIPATION IN THE IAEA'S
RADWASS PROGRAM

This is to advise you that the Commission has not objected to sending the proposed letter to Mr. Cooley.

cc: Chairman Carr
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
EDO
OGC

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM AND SECY-91-007 WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

January 29, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

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DRAFT
GPA/IP
12/14/90

Mr. Carl R. Cooley
Acting Director
Division of Demonstration, Testing and Evaluation
Office of Technology Development
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Cooley:

As a follow up to my letter of December 10, this is to inform you that the Commission has reviewed the question of NRC involvement in the IAEA RADWASS Program. In performing the review, the Commission has taken into account current and projected staff work loads, present levels of effort devoted to international activities, including NRC participation in ongoing IAEA programs, and considered the availability of knowledgeable staff who could be called upon to participate in a new, long-term IAEA program.

The Commission has concluded that the RADWASS Program appears to be a well-thought-out and potentially useful effort for assembling and integrating nuclear waste information developed by IAEA member countries. However, current NRC work loads and staff constraints will allow us to provide only limited, periodic assistance to this effort.

Such assistance could include, for instance, making relevant NRC documents and staff position papers available to the RADWASS Program, offering to meet from time to time with RADWASS Program participants visiting the U.S., having NRC staff members visiting Vienna on other IAEA business hold discussions with RADWASS Program participants, and reviewing draft documents which fall clearly with the NRC's purview. We are, however, unable at this time to commit to participating regularly in RADWASS technical committees or in the preparation of RADWASS technical documents. At this point we also have no further comments to make on the RADWASS Program document.

We hope to keep informed in a general way on the progress of this Program through our contacts with Dr. Michael Bell of the IAEA (previously an NRC staff member) and would also appreciate receiving from you periodic information on key RADWASS developments and milestones.

Sincerely,

James R. Shea, Director
International Programs
Office of Governmental and
Public Affairs