

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

July 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.  
Deputy Executive Director for  
Nuclear Materials Safety, Safeguards  
and Operational Support

Dade W. Moeller, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

From: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

Subject: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STAFF  
COMMENTS ON DOE SITE CHARACTERIZATION PLAN  
FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN, 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY,  
JULY 11, 1989, COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE  
ROOM, OBE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,  
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The commission was briefed by the staff and the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear waste (ACNW) on staff's review of the Department of Energy's Site Characterization Plan for the nation's high level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The Commission:

1. Commended the staff for the thoroughness of the review in light of tight time schedules..
2. Supported staff's high priority rulemaking activities on substantially complete containment, performance assessment, and disturbed zone, which are schedule for completion in 1992.  
(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 1992)
3. Shared staff's concern that DOE's schedular objectives and substantial schedule slippage in the front-end work of the site characterization program may be affecting the integration of necessary technical information gathering

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activities and may potentially affect DOE's project 1995 application and 2003 operation dates for the repository.

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4. Encouraged staff's continued effort to concentrate its comments to DOE on the important issues.
5. Endorsed staff's efforts to encourage DOE to give highest priority early in the site characterization process to those investigations which may lead to identification of potentially disqualifying conditions.
6. Encouraged the staff to continue its frequent dialogue with DOE, states, and Indian tribes to ensure fruitful timely and constructive progress.
7. Requested that the ACNW letter of July 3, 1989, "ACNW Review of NRC Comments on DOE Site Characterization Plan," be clarified to show in which way, if any, the Committee's comments differ from those of the staff.

(ACNW)

(SECY Suspense: 9/1/89)

The staff informed the Commission that it intends to submit an information paper discussing the background and application of performance assessment in demonstrating compliance with the EPA high level waste standard.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 9/1/89)

cc: Chairman Carr  
Commissioner Roberts  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
OGC  
GPA  
ACNW  
PDR - Advance  
DCS - P1-24