



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 20, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner de Planque

FROM: James M. Taylor *James M. Taylor*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STAFF'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE NATIVE AMERICANS AND
AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH INFORMATION ON THE
YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY

By memorandum dated December 23, 1994, the staff provided the Commission with a report on what was being done to provide Native Americans and affected units of local governments (AULGs) access to information on the Yucca Mountain repository. In that memorandum, the staff committed to update the Commission on this effort. The purpose of this memorandum is to give the Commission an update on what the staff has accomplished since the December 23, 1994, memorandum.

Since December 1994, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management (NMSS/DWM) and the Office of Information Resource Management (IRM) have continued their research on videoconferencing. Both offices have visited several companies in the metropolitan area who can provide the necessary equipment. The purpose of these visits was to determine what would be appropriate for the types of interactions anticipated. In addition, by letter dated January 26, 1995, NMSS/DWM provided information on: 1) the specifications for the NRC's videoconferencing capability; 2) NRC's videoconferencing intentions; and 3) advice on compatible equipment. This information was provided to all HLW program participants including AULGs, Native Americans, the U. S. Department of Energy; and various other interested parties. Overall response from these groups has been positive. Some limited videoconferencing capability is currently scheduled to be operational in mid-summer with full capabilities to come toward the end of the calendar year.

In addition to work on videoconferencing capability, staff from the Office of General Counsel (OGC), Office of Administration (ADM), NMSS/DWM, and IRM

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met on several occasions to explore ways NRC could provide computers to various Native American groups. At present, ADM has been in contact with the General Services Administration and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure the appropriate inter-agency coordination. As a result of a meeting with Native Americans in February 1995, Mr. Robert Holden, Director, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is in the process of conducting a survey to determine the most advantageous recipients of the equipment. Also, a determination of who will be responsible for training and the continued maintenance of this equipment still needs to be made.

Finally, NMSS/DWM and OGC staff are in the process of organizing training on various aspects of the Native American Culture. Staff is looking into the feasibility of having members of the NCAI conduct the training since they have provided similar training to other Federal agencies. This type of orientation should greatly improve communications between NRC staff and the entire Native American community.

The staff will continue to see these efforts through resolution and will again update the Commission as activities warrant.

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Finally, NMSS/DWM and OGC staff are investigating development of training on various aspects of the Native American Culture. Staff is looking into the feasibility of having members of the NCAI conduct the training since they have provided similar training to other Federal agencies. This type of orientation should greatly improve communications between NRC staff and the entire Native American community.

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