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

JAN 04 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: John T. Larkins, Executive Director  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

THRU: Abraham L. Eiss, ACNW Liaison  
Special Issues Group  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: B.J. Youngblood, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: STATUS OF STAFF REVIEW OF DOE'S TOPICAL REPORT ON  
"EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIALLY ADVERSE CONDITION 'EVIDENCE  
OF EXTREME EROSION DURING THE QUATERNARY PERIOD' AT YUCCA  
MOUNTAIN, NEVADA"

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the ACNW of the status of the staff review of the subject topical report. Enclosure 1 provides a copy of a letter recently sent to DOE outlining the status of our review and identifying preliminary staff concerns developed during our review of the topical report. The staff believes that these concerns are of such significance that resolution is essential in order for the staff to complete its review of the report. As the concerns in the letter make clear, the staff's review is at a preliminary stage and needs the benefit of further information from DOE. Therefore, it likely would be most productive to discuss the letter with the Committee following the informational site visit described below.

In particular, the staff would like to bring to the ACNW's attention the fact that an NRC/DOE site visit to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, related to the subject topical report, is currently scheduled to take place on February 1 and 2, 1994. An agenda and itinerary for this site visit should be available within the next two weeks.

With respect to NRC/DOE interactions generally, we are also providing as Enclosure 2, information on scheduled NRC/DOE interactions for the period of January - June, 1994. If any topic is of interest, the Committee might consider staff and/or member attendance at the planned NRC/DOE interactions in lieu of scheduling separate Committee workshops where feasible. In addition, the staff is reviewing other planned activities that involve interactions with DOE and will bring any such activities to the Committee's attention in the near future.

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If you have any questions or desire additional information about this review, please contact Paul Prestholt of my staff at 301-504-3810.

15/

B.J. Youngblood, Director  
 Division of High-Level Waste Management  
 Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
 and Safeguards

Enclosures (2):  
 As stated

cc: Dr. Martin J. Steindler, ACNW  
 Dr. Paul W. Pomeroy, ACNW  
 Dr. William J. Hinze, ACNW

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DATE	12/04/93		12/ /93		12/30/93		12/30/93		12/30/93	
OFC	HLWM		NMSS							
NAME	B. Youngblood		A. Eiss		HLPD for A. Eiss for delivery of Jan. 4, 1994					
DATE	12/30/93		12/04/93							

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ACNW

Minutes From the November 18, 1993.  
Interactions Scheduling Meeting

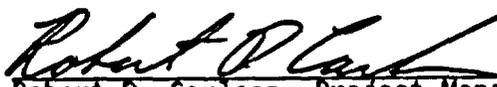
On November 18, 1993, staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission met at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) headquarters with representatives from DOE for an interactions scheduling meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and schedule interactions in the area of high-level waste management between the NRC staff and DOE from January through June 1994. Also in attendance were representatives from the State of Nevada, Nye County, NV, and Clark County, NV. A list of attendees is found in Attachment 1.

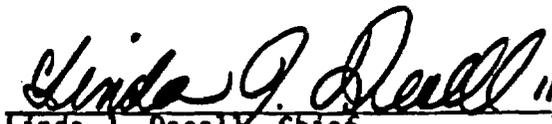
At the meeting, the NRC and DOE staff agreed to schedule three technical exchanges and one site visit during the period from January to June 1994. Also, two status update meetings on the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) were scheduled during this period. The list of interaction topics, including the objective, scope, date, and location of each is provided in Attachment 2.

The scheduling of the NRC proposed technical exchange, "Field Heater Experiments to Resolve Issues Associated With Coupled Thermal-Hydrologic-Mechanical-Chemical (THMC) Processes," was deferred until the next interactions scheduling meeting when DOE would have more information to provide. However, DOE stated that it would forward the Scientific Investigations Plan and any other pertinent documentation on its field heater experiments related to coupled THMC processes to the NRC staff for reference.

Both NRC and DOE staff agreed that there should be early discussions prior to all scheduled interactions to establish the details of the agendas. This entails providing mutual access to relevant documents and letters containing key issues on the respective interaction topics.

The next interactions scheduling meeting was scheduled for May 17, 1994, in Washington, D.C. This meeting will be conducted to select and schedule interactions for July through December 1994. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts with other meetings held by related organizations or interested parties, NRC and DOE staff agreed to block-out time frames each month for the remainder of 1994 to schedule future interactions. The dates that were tentatively agreed upon were the following: July 26-28; August 23-25; September 13-15; October 25-27; November 7-9; and December 6-8. Interaction topics, scopes, objectives, dates, and locations will be determined at the next interactions scheduling meeting.

 11/29/93  
Robert D. Carlson, Project Manager  
Repository Licensing and Quality  
Assurance Project Directorate  
Division of High-Level Waste  
Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

 11/30/93  
Linda J. Desely, Chief  
Regulatory Integration Branch  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy