



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

0310

December 23, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chairman  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner de Planque

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON HLW ISSUES BY NWTRB,  
STATE OF NEVADA, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NATIVE AMERICAN,  
9:00 A.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1994, COMMISSIONER'S  
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND,  
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE) M940909A

By Staff Requirements Memorandum M940909A, dated September 20, 1994, the Commission requested that the staff explore ways to provide access to information on the Yucca Mountain repository. As a follow-up to the September 9, 1994, briefing by representatives of affected units of local governments (AULG) and Indian Tribes, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management (NMSS/DWM) staff has achieved several accomplishments.

The DWM staff is now placing Mr. Robert Holden, Director, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and Mr. Elwood Lowry, Director, Nevada Indian Environmental Coalition (NIEC) and Richard Arnold, Chairman of the Pahrump Tribe located in Pahrump, Nevada, on the list of those receiving all correspondence to the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the high-level waste (HLW) program. Also, at a DWM staff suggestion, DOE has also agreed to place these gentlemen on its list for all HLW correspondence regarding Yucca Mountain.

The DWM staff has extensively researched the Agency's videoconferencing capabilities. The Director, NMSS, sent a memorandum to the Director, Office of Information Resources Management (IRM) requesting support for such equipment. The use of this equipment would be beneficial to various interested parties located in the Yucca Mountain and surrounding areas. By having videoconferencing available, meetings taking place in the Washington, D. C., area could be viewed and participated in from Nevada. This would allow local governments and Tribal representatives to participate more actively and would cut back on already limited travel funds.

Contact: Anne Garcia, NMSS  
415-6631

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The Commissioners

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Finally, the DWM staff is currently exploring the possibility of having IRM provide surplus computer equipment to various Native American groups. The DWM staff believes this will be a beneficial means of on-line communication through Internet, E-mail, etc. Staff is making arrangements to meet with Mr. Robert Holden (NCAI) to discuss where this equipment would be most advantageous to the Native American Community as well as any other mechanisms to improve communications.

In summary, we have taken a number of steps to improve communications with the AULG and Indian Tribes and we expect to make additional improvements. We will update the status of this effort in February 1995.

cc: SECY  
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Finally, the DWM staff is currently exploring the possibility of having IRM provide surplus computer equipment to various Native American groups. The DWM staff believes this will be a beneficial means of on-line communication through Internet, E-mail, etc. Members of DWM, IRM, and the Office of the General Counsel will be meeting with Mr. Robert Holden (NCAI) on December 19, 1994, to discuss where this equipment would be most advantageous to the Native American Community as well as any other mechanisms to improve communications.

In summary, we have taken a number of steps to improve communications with the AULG and Indian Tribes and we expect to make additional improvements. We will update the status of this effort in February 1995.

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