



Department of Energy
 Washington, DC 20585
 JUL 30 1993

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Director
 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
 Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Holonich:

Enclosed are an original and a copy of a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) letter to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) in which DOE proposes a process for scheduling interactions and suggests topics relative to the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) for presentation to the ACNW.

The original DOE letter is for your consideration and for subsequent referral to the ACNW. The letter copy is for your retention and recordkeeping.

The purpose of the letter is to offer a means for planning and scheduling interactions in a similar manner as they are arranged between DOE and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Both proposed processes--for suggesting topics and for scheduling those meetings--are based on a balancing of OCRWM knowledge of the present issues of priority and current Departmental budget for participation in meetings.

As always, DOE looks forward to a continued dialogue with the ACNW members and staff. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact Sharon Skuchko of my office at (202) 586-4590.

Sincerely,

Joh P. Roberts

Dwight E. Shelor
 Associate Director for
 Systems and Compliance
 Office of Civilian Radioactive
 Waste Management

Enclosure: as stated

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cc w/Enclosure:

C. Gertz, YMPO
T. J. Hickey, Nevada Legislative Committee
R. Loux, State of Nevada
D. Bechtel, Las Vegas, NV
Eureka County, NV
Lander County, Battle Mountain, NV
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, Nye County, NV
W. Offutt, Nye County, NV
L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
C. Schank, Churchill County, NV
F. Mariani, White Pine County, NV
V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
R. Carlson
D. Moeller, NRC
G. Gnugnoli, NRC



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JUL 30 1993

Dr. Dade Moeller
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Moeller:

During the past four years, at the request of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) has actively participated in meetings and working groups conducted by the ACNW.

Generally, topics relative to the OCRWM program are scheduled for discussion based on items of particular interest and/or concern to the Committee members. The priority established for each proposed issue is based on information provided by representatives of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and the Executive Director for Operations, as well as other offices of the NRC.

The purpose of this letter is to offer assistance to the ACNW in suggesting topics for meetings and/or working groups as they relate to the OCRWM program, and proposing a process for scheduling those meetings. Both are based on OCRWM knowledge of the present issues of priority within current Departmental budget considerations.

DOE/NRC interactions planning meetings are a successful working model for planning 6 months of future meetings. DOE suggests that the calendar for briefings to ACNW be planned in a similar fashion. Planning the meetings well in advance allows a more efficient use of available resources. The calendar could include summary briefings of topics previously presented to the NRC staff. Typically, these summary briefings could be presented to the ACNW approximately 60 days following a DOE presentation to NRC, if requested by the ACNW. In this manner, the ACNW has an opportunity to attend the NRC briefings, has ample time to absorb the information presented, and may prepare questions prior to DOE's presentation to the ACNW. Similarly, DOE is allowed adequate time, following the NRC briefing, to prepare a condensed version and summary of issues raised for presentation to the ACNW.

Also, DOE suggests several other topics for ACNW consideration in addition to the DOE/NRC scheduled topics. DOE has compiled a list of both the scheduled DOE/NRC interactions as well as the additional suggested topics, based on a DOE order of priority. We invite ACNW to work with the DOE to schedule briefings on any of these topics on its calendar during the remainder of 1993 and early 1994:

SCHEDULED DOE/NRC INTERACTIONS*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
8/24/93	Substantially Complete Containment and Waste Package-Engineered Barrier Design Concepts Technical Exchange	**Washington, DC or Bethesda, MD
10/13/93	Radionuclide Migration in the Unsaturated Zone Technical Exchange	Albuquerque, NM
10/14/93	Near-Field Phenomena Related to Radionuclide Releases from Engineered Barrier Technical Exchange	Albuquerque, NM
10/15/93	Los Alamos Site Visit	Los Alamos, NM
11/17/93	Interactions Scheduling	Washington, DC
11/18/93	Technical Meeting on Seismic Hazards	**Washington, DC or Bethesda, MD

* DOE proposes that approximately 60 days after briefing the NRC would be an appropriate timeframe for presenting summary briefings to the ACNW.

** These interactions may be at the DOE Forrestal Building or the NRC Phillips Building.

DOE-SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL TOPICS

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PROPOSED PRESENTER</u>
ACNW Site Visit/Exploratory Studies Facility Tour Overview of the High-Level Waste Program	DOE-HQ/YMPO
Drilling Program Systems Engineering	DOE-HQ/YMPO
Topical Report on Erosion	DOE-HQ/YMPO
Issues Resolution Process	DOE-HQ/YMPO
Multi-Purpose Canisters	DOE-HQ
Unsaturated Zone Hydrology	DOE-HQ/YMPO
Total System Performance Assessment	DOE-HQ/YMPO

DOE looks forward to continued dialogue with the ACNW relative to ongoing site characterization activities at the Yucca Mountain site. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact either April Gil of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office at (702) 794-7622 or Sharon Skuchko of my office at (202) 586-4590.

Sincerely,



Dwight E. Shelor
Associate Director for
Systems and Compliance
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

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V. Poe, Mineral County, NV
J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
J. Hayes, Esmeralda County, NV
B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA
R. Carlson, NRC
G. Gnugnoli, ACNW