

June 19, 2003

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT — 142ND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON NUCLEAR WASTE, MAY 28–30, 2003, AND OTHER RELATED
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Dear Chairman Diaz:

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW or the Committee) held its 142nd meeting on May 28–30, 2003, at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. During that meeting, the Committee discussed the following matters.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. Control of Solid Materials

The Committee received an update on the current status of staff activities related to the control of solid materials from the cognizant Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards staff engineer, Frank Cardile, and four representatives from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (Cheryl Trottier, Carl Feldman, Robert Meck, and George Powers).

Dr. Cardile discussed activities in support of the current rulemaking effort, including the public workshop on May 21–22, 2003. Ms. Trottier and members from her staff discussed the finalization of NUREG-1640, "Radiological Assessments for Clearance of Equipment and Materials from Nuclear Facilities," the status of the followon work (particularly the effort on collective dose estimates for clearance of solid materials), and staff efforts to improve the process of determining the presence or absence of radioactive material through the use of "performance-based radioactive materials control (measurement)" techniques.

Committee Action

This was an information briefing. The Committee indicated its interest in receiving updates as the rule and NUREG become final and are made available to the public.

2. License Termination Rule (LTR)

The NRC staff presented a review of experience gained with the License Termination Rule over the past 6 years. This presentation included improvements to prevent legacy sites and to make decommissioning options more risk informed.

Committee Action

The Committee will continue to follow developments in the area of decommissioning.

3. Yucca Mountain Review Plan, Revision 2

The NRC staff briefed the ACNW on how it incorporated the Committee's comments into the Yucca Mountain Review Plan (YMRP), Revision 2. In essence, the staff incorporated all of the Committee's suggestions into the revised YMRP.

Committee Action

The Committee will follow the final Commission direction on the form of the YMRP. No further reviews are anticipated.

4. 2003–2004 ACNW Research Report

The Committee discussed its plans for performing the next review of NRC-sponsored waste safety-related research. A briefing on the RES-sponsored waste safety-related research will be scheduled for the June ACNW meeting.

Committee Action

A decision as to the scope and approach of the next Committee report on waste-related research will be made during the June ACNW meeting.

5. **Proposed Agenda for the 143RD ACNW MEETING**

The Committee agreed to consider the following topics at its 143rd meeting on June 24–25, 2003:

- Department of Energy Strategy for Resolving Key Technical Issue (KTI) Agreements
- Use of Risk Information as Basis for DOE/NRC Agreement Closure
- NRC Staff Report on the Risk-Significance Ranking of the 293 KTI Agreements
- Spent Fuel Characterization Project
- Update on Waste Management Research
- Scope of 2003–2004 ACNW Research Report
- Election of Officers

Sincerely,

/RA/

George M. Hornberger
Chairman