

TV/PRESENT AT ACNW MTG

JAN 31 1991

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NOTE TO: Kenneth R. Hooks, HLPD

FROM: Tilak R. Verma, HLPD

SUBJECT: USE OF EXPERT JUDGEMENT FOR DECISION MAKING - PRESENTATIONS AT THE ACNW MEETING

On January 25, 1991, I attended the subject meeting as an observer. This was an open ACNW meeting that included presentations from DOE/YMPO, NRC staff, Sandia National Laboratories, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, State of Nevada, EPRI, private contractors and universities. It was a very well attended meeting. After a busy schedule of presentations related to the application of expert judgement, a panel discussion on the subject topic was held.

I have the following observations from my attendance at this meeting:

- 1) The use of expert judgement for decision making was discussed by different speakers in a generic sense. No standard procedures were presented for application of expert judgement in decision making. Application of rigorous QA for using expert judgement in licensing decisions was also discussed by DOE/YMPO and NRC staff in a very general way. No specific details on QA aspects of expert judgement were provided during the meeting.
- 2) DOE/YMPO indicated that the Yucca Mountain Project has already applied expert judgement in three of their reports related to different aspects of the geologic repository. No details of methodology on the use of expert judgement were provided by DOE/YMPO.
- 3) The role of QA in the application of expert judgement to decision making for licensing still needs to be defined.
- 4) It was not clear whether peer reviews and technical reviews are a part of expert judgement or vice versa. Different speakers used these terms differently.

From listening to the presentations and follow-up discussions at this meeting, it is my impression that the HLPD QA Section should either take the lead or provide substantial input in providing guidance for development and implementation of methodology and procedures for the use of expert judgement in decision making for licensing.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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cc: JLinehan
QA Section

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