



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

ACNWR-0052

PDR

April 29, 1991

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: PROGRAM PLAN FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

This is our fifth response to your memorandum of November 6, 1989, in which you requested that the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) provide a program plan at four-month intervals. This plan covers the period May-August 1991. We hope you will find this a convenient avenue for us to share information on our proposed upcoming activities and for you to provide feedback on issues on which the Commission wishes us to focus our efforts.

In preparing this program plan, we have considered the list of specific technical issues of particular interest to the Commission, requests of individual Commissioners, the EDO's list of proposed agenda items for the ACRS and the ACNW, the NRC's Five-Year Plan, and items of particular interest and/or concern to the Committee. The priorities proposed are based on information provided by representatives of NMSS, NRR, RES, and the EDO office, as well as our own interpretation of the subject in relation to our activities as a Committee and our input into the regulatory process.

This program plan is based on the current best estimates of work output by the DOE, EPA, NRC staff, and their consultants and contractors, as well as our own estimates of how to deal with these issues effectively. In addition to the full Committee meetings noted, Working Group meetings will be held as necessary to facilitate full Committee review and action. There may be some revisions to this plan associated with the completion of NRC staff, applicant, and/or contractor studies and reviews as well as other schedule problems beyond our control.

Full Committee meeting dates for this period are tentatively scheduled as follows:

31st Meeting	-	May 22-23, 1991
32nd Meeting	-	June 20, 1991
33rd Meeting	-	July 24-26, 1991
34th Meeting	-	August 28-29, 1991

The Committee anticipates considering the topics listed below during this four-month period.

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May 22-23, 1991

- The Committee will be briefed on Working Draft #3 of the Environmental Protection Agency's 40 CFR Part 191, High-Level Waste Repository Standards, if available. (High Priority)
- The Committee may continue discussions which address dealing with uncertainties in implementing the EPA High-Level Waste Standards. (High Priority)
- The Committee will hear a report from its Working Group Chairman on a recent meeting concerning Integration of Geophysics into Site Characterization of a High-Level Waste Repository. (Medium)
- The Committee will be briefed by representatives from the State of South Carolina on the implementation of its agreement state program. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will discuss information obtained by members from attendance at the Second Annual International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference and a field trip to Lunar Craters. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed on a digital data set prepared for the Yucca Mountain site. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed on research sponsored by the Department of Energy related to site characterization. An overview of this research is sought. (High Priority)

June 20, 1991

- The Committee will respond to a Staff Requirements Memorandum concerning the need for revision to 10 CFR Part 61 as it relates to low-level waste form leachability and groundwater protection requirements. (High Priority)
- The Committee will hear a report by a member on a recent visit to the West Valley Demonstration Project. (Medium Priority)
- The meeting with the Commission which was scheduled for the June ACNW meeting has been tentatively deferred to July by SECY. This meeting may still be scheduled for the June ACNW meeting if appropriate Commissioners can be available.

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July 24-26, 1991

- The Committee will meet with the Commissioners to discuss items of mutual interest. (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on an NRC staff report that discusses exemptions to 10 CFR Part 20 that allow sewer disposal for certain waste streams. (High Priority)
- Listing of Facilities and Structures in One Document. The Committee will review and comment on a proposed rule dealing with record keeping for modifications and procedures made during decommissioning. This rulemaking is in response to a Congressional request. (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on the first of the two groups of draft Regulatory Guides implementing the revised 10 CFR Part 20, Standards for Protection Against Radiation. (High Priority)
- The Committee will discuss its recent trip to and meeting at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will discuss and report on how expert judgment will be used in conducting performance assessments used in the licensing of high-level and low-level waste repositories. (High Priority)

August 28-29, 1991

- The Committee will invite the State of Nevada to present a summary and discussion of the State's review and comments on DOE's Site Characterization Plan and related Study Plans. (High Priority)
- The Committee will invite DOE to present a summary and discussion of the DOE responses to comments by EPA, NRC and State of Nevada on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Plan. (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on the NRC staff's Technical Position on Investigations to Identify Fault Displacements and Seismic Hazards. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will hear a presentation on the proactive program for HLW. This involves planned rulemakings, guidelines, and technical position in support of the HLW program. (High Priority)

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- The Committee will hear a report from its Working Group on Quaternary Dating Methods. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on the staff's analysis of the benefits and limitations of using collective dose and individual dose approaches as the basis for establishing standards for a high-level waste repository. (High Priority)

Unscheduled Discussions: (Will be considered as documents and time become available.)

- The Committee will be briefed on the NRC HLW staff's position on penetration of the Calico Hills tuff. (High Priority)
- The Committee plans to invite a representative from AECL to discuss Canada's high-level waste standards. (Low Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed on the staff's review of the Exploratory Shaft Alternatives Study and the Surface Based Testing Prioritization study. The studies are being prepared by DOE. The Committee will review these studies when available. (High Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed by EPA on their adoption of a revised Hazard Ranking System used in assessing the threat associated with the release or potential release into the environment of hazardous chemicals and/or radioactive materials. (Low Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on a recent technical meeting on the Alligator River Analogue Project. This project is designed to investigate the Koongarra uranium ore body, a natural analogue to a high-level waste repository. (High Priority)
- The Committee will discuss an alternative probabilistic format for the containment requirements in EPA's high-level waste standards. Processes and events potentially affecting a repository would be divided into three categories (likely conditions, unlikely conditions, and very unlikely conditions). (High Priority)
- The Committee will discuss issues related to post closure monitoring of a high-level waste repository. (High Priority)
- The Committee will discuss a recent report concerning Mortality Among Workers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- The Committee will discuss and make recommendations on criteria for the cleanup of sites contaminated with residual

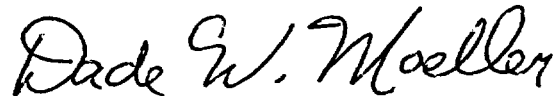
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level of radioactivity (e.g., natural uranium, depleted uranium, thorium, etc.).

This list represents our best estimate of the topics to be considered through August 1991. If you or your fellow Commissioners have additional items to suggest or proposed changes in priorities, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller  
Chairman

cc: Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
Commissioner Remick  
Samuel J. Chilk, SECY  
James M. Taylor, EDO  
Robert M. Bernero, NMSS