



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

ACNWS-0038

PDR 5/13/92

January 22, 1992

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, DECEMBER 18-19, 1991

During the 38th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste,
December 18-19, 1991, we discussed several matters and completed
the activities noted below including the reports listed.

REPORTS

- Program Plan for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
(Report to you, dated December 23, 1991)
- Geologic Dating of Quaternary Volcanic Features and Materials
(Report to you, dated December 24, 1991)

HIGHLIGHTS OF CERTAIN MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

- Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level
Waste Program

The Committee was briefed by Mr. Alex Radin on the report of
the Monitored Retrievable Storage Review Commission. The
Committee will continue to investigate the feasibility of
using a systems analysis approach to review the short and mid-
range technical milestones for handling spent nuclear power
plant fuel, with the goal of developing recommendations as to
the scope of the review and the advisability of undertaking
it.

- Meeting with the NRC Commissioners

The Committee met with the Commissioners to discuss items of
mutual interest, including:

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- Reports in response to Commissioner Rogers' inquiry regarding the NRC's staff performance assessment and computer modeling capabilities for HLW and LLW disposal facilities
- The recent Working Group meeting on geologic dating
- A status report on Committee efforts regarding the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to reviewing the short and mid-range milestones for handling spent nuclear power plant fuel.

- Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository

The Committee began its review of the Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository. We expect to complete a report during the 39th ACNW meeting on January 15-17, 1992.

- ACNW Four-Month Plan

The Committee prepared and submitted to the Commission its four-month plan for the period January-April 1992.

- Election of ACNW Officers

The Committee reelected Dr. Dade W. Moeller and Dr. Martin J. Steindler to the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for the calendar year 1992.

- ACNW Future Activities

- The Committee agreed to defer indefinitely the Working Group meeting (scheduled for January 15, 1992) to discuss the need for, and status of, proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 61.
- The Committee agreed to add a third day to the 39th ACNW meeting to provide adequate time to discuss long range plans. The 39th ACNW meeting will be held January 15-17, 1992.
- The members discussed a proposed agenda for the 44th ACNW meeting to be tentatively held on June 24-26, 1992, in Richland, Washington. The members recommended that a public session be held as part of this meeting.

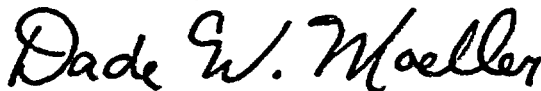
January 22, 1992

Site visits will be scheduled before and after the meeting with representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Facilities and the U.S. Ecology low-level waste disposal facility. Possible discussions and tours include:

- Grouting Program for LLW
 - N-Reactor Decommissioning
 - Performance Assessment and Decontamination
 - Waste Tank Stabilization and Hydrogen Control
 - Hydrology Modeling Capabilities
- The Committee was informed that the NRC and the Environmental Protection Agency have reached concurrence in the development of joint guidance on mixed waste testing and storage. The Committee has asked the NRC staff to keep it informed on this matter.
 - The Committee agreed to defer indefinitely further work on the impacts of the Clean Air Act on uranium mill tailings and the proposed revision of 40 CFR Part 61, Subparts I, T, and W.

Appendix A summarizes the items proposed for future meetings of the Committee and related Working Groups. This list includes items proposed by the Commissioners and NRC staff as well as ACNW members.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Enclosures: As stated

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

39th ACNW Committee Meeting January 15-17, 1992

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program (Open) - The Committee will continue deliberations to investigate the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to review the overall high-level waste programs, including the short and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste, with the goal of reporting back to the Commission its recommendations as to the scope of the review and the advisability of undertaking it.

Revision to NUREG-1200 (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on a proposed revision to NUREG-1200, Standard Review Plan for a Low-Level Waste Facility.

Staff Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository (Open) - The Committee will complete its review and comment on the draft Staff Technical Position on the "Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository."

Presentation at the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting (Open) - The Committee will discuss a paper being prepared for presentation at the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting. The paper will be based on reports recently issued by the ACNW on various low-level radioactive waste topics.

Working Group Meetings

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program, February 19, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Larson) - The Working Group will continue to discuss the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program, including the short- and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste.

The Impact of Long-Term Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, April 21-22, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Gnugnoli) - The Working Group will discuss the historical evidence and the potential for climate changes in the Southern Basin and Range and their associated impacts on performance for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Residual Contamination Clean-up Criteria, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Gnugnoli) - The Working Group will review the guidelines for radionuclide contamination limits for unrestricted use of sites and facilities that are or have been under NRC license, or were at one time under AEC license.

Methods for Assessing the Presence of Natural Resources at the Proposed HLW Repository Site, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Larson) - The Working Group will discuss methodologies for the assessment of the potential for natural resources at the proposed high-level waste repository site at Yucca Mountain. The relationship between natural resources and the potential for human intrusion will be emphasized.