



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

ACNWS-0042

PDR
8/4/92

May 18, 1992

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - FORTY SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, APRIL 22-24, 1992

During the 42nd meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste,
April 22-24, 1992, we discussed several matters and completed the
activities noted below including the reports and memorandum listed.

REPORTS

- Comprehensive Systems Analysis of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal Program (Report to you, dated May 1, 1992)
- Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: Procedures and Criteria for On-Site Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (Report to you, dated April 30, 1992)
- Staff Technical Position on Alternate Concentration Limits for Title II Uranium Mills (Report to you, dated April 30, 1992)
- Program Plan for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (Report to you, dated May 1, 1992)

MEMORANDUM

- Review of NRC High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan (Draft NUREG-1406) (Memorandum to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, dated May 1, 1992)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

The Committee completed an initial report on the feasibility of applying a systems approach to the analysis of the overall

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high-level waste program, including the short and mid-range technical milestones. The Committee concluded that on-going activities of the DOE and NRC made the initiation of such a study premature at this time. The Committee suggested that the better course of action is to await the results of the on-going work. The Committee will carefully monitor developments in this field.

During our meeting with the Commission, you requested that the Committee prepare a functional diagram that identifies the elements the Committee believes should be in a full systems analysis. You also requested that the Committee provide its views as to which portions of the HLW program are being done and which portions are clearly not being done so there are major gaps in the program. The Committee will schedule time during the next few meetings to address this request.

- Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: Procedures and Criteria for On-Site Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the proposed expedited rulemaking to establish a regulatory framework setting forth the procedures and criteria that will apply to on-site storage of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) after January 1, 1996. The proposed rule would amend licensing conditions for byproduct material (Part 30), source material (Part 40), production and utilization facilities (Part 50), special nuclear material (Part 70), and independent spent fuel storage (Part 72). The Committee approved a report to you endorsing the objectives of the proposed rulemaking.

- Pathfinder Decommissioning and the Status of Other Decommissioning Efforts

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff and the owners of the Pathfinder Nuclear Power Plant (Northern States Power) on the lessons learned from the decontamination and decommissioning activities. The Committee was also briefed on the decommissioning status of eleven other nuclear power plants, including Rancho Seco, Fort St. Vrain, and Shoreham. This meeting was for information only. No action was taken by the Committee.

- Staff Technical Position on Alternate Concentration Limits for Title II Uranium Mills

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on a proposed technical position on alternate concentration limits for Title II uranium mill tailings sites. The Committee approved a report to you recommending that the technical position be issued as soon as possible.

- Review of the NRC High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan (Draft NUREG-1406)

The Committee approved a report to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, recommending a number of ways by which the NRC HLW research program plan described in draft NUREG-1406 could be improved. The Committee stands ready to review the revised Research Plan when completed.

- Louisiana Energy Services - Private Uranium Enrichment Facility

The Committee was briefed by representatives of Louisiana Energy Services (LES) on their plans for a private uranium enrichment facility with emphasis on potential releases to the environment and proposed systems for the management of associated waste. The Committee requested to be kept informed on the progress of the license application.

- Meeting With the NRC Commissioners

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

- The feasibility of a systems analysis approach to the transportation, interim storage, and final disposal of HLW,
- The NRC staff technical position on "The Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository",
- The standard review plan for the review of a license application for an LLW facility (NUREG-1200),
- The current status of the proposed rulemaking on EPA high-level waste standards.

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- Four Month Program Plan for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

The Committee approved a report to you that provides a list of its anticipated activities for the four-month period May - August 1992.

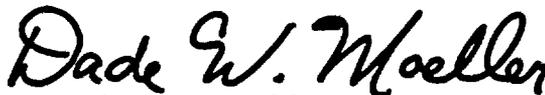
- ACNW Future Activities

The Committee agreed to defer the 46th ACNW meeting from August 13-14, 1992, to September 24-25, 1992.

The members discussed the agenda for the site visit and the 44th ACNW meeting, scheduled to be held on June 23-25, 1992, in the vicinity of Richland, Washington.

Appendix A summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 43rd ACNW Meeting, May 28-29, 1992, and future Working Group meetings.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Enclosures: As stated

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

43rd ACNW Committee Meeting May 28-29, 1992 (Tentative Schedule)

Review of Regulatory Guides Related to the Implementation of the Revised 10 CFR Part 20 (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on a number of regulatory guides related to the implementation of the revised 10 CFR Part. 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation."

Comprehensive Systems Analysis of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal Program (Open) - The Committee will address a supplemental request from Chairman Selin, made during the Commission meeting on April 24, 1992, for a systems analysis of the high-level waste management program.

Design-Basis-Events Rulemaking (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the design-basis-events rulemaking for a high-level waste repository (Controlled-Use Area/Design Basis Events Limit).

Emergency Planning for ISFSI and MRS facilities (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 72 concerning emergency planning for independent spent fuel storage installations and the monitored retrievable storage facility.

Report on the 24th Annual Meeting of the Conference of State Radiation Control Program Directors (Open) - The Committee will hear a report on relevant topics discussed during the 24th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

EPA Hazard Ranking System (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the adoption by EPA of a revised Hazard Ranking System for use in assessing the risk associated with the release or potential release into the environment of hazardous chemicals and/or radioactive materials.

Committee Activities (Open/Closed) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate. Also, the members will discuss matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings.

Working Group Meetings

Review of Regulatory Guides Related to the Implementation of the Revised 10 CFR Part 20, May 27, 1992, Holiday Inn, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD - The ACNW Working Group and the ACRS Subcommittee on Occupational and Environmental Protection Systems will hold a joint meeting to review six regulatory guides related to the implementation of the revised 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation."

NRC Staff Comments on the DOE's Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) for the Yucca Mountain High-Level Repository, June 17, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD - The Working Group will be briefed by the NRC staff regarding issues and concerns resulting from the NRC staff's review of DOE's ESSE and its associated conclusions.

Phase 2 of the HLW Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA), September 23, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD - The Working Group will discuss the progress of Phase 2 of the HLW Iterative Performance Assessment effort by NRC. The Working Group will also be briefed by DOE representatives regarding the status of the DOE's Total System Performance Assessment.

Inadvertent Human Intrusion Related to the Presence of Natural Resources at a HLW Repository Site, October 21, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD - 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. The Working Group will also consider a DOE Study Plan on this topic.

The Impact of Long-Range Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, November 18, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD - 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 the anticipated performance for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.