



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

ACNWS-0043  
PDR  
8/4/92

June 19, 1992

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - FORTY THIRD MEETING OF THE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, MAY 28-29, 1992

During the 43rd meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste,  
May 28-29, 1992, we discussed several matters and completed the  
activities noted below including the reports and memoranda listed.

REPORTS AND MEMORANDA

- Comments on Regulatory Guides to Implement the Revised 10 CFR Part 20 Requirements (Report to Eric S. Beckjord, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, dated June 2, 1992)
- Rulemaking on Design Basis Events for Geologic Repository Operations Area (Report to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, dated June 2, 1992)
- Proposed Rulemaking on Emergency Planning Licensing Requirements for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities (ISFSI) and Monitored Retrievable Storage Facilities (MRS) (Memorandum to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, dated June 2, 1992)
- License Application for the High-Level Radioactive Waste Repository (Memorandum to Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards, dated June 2, 1992)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

- Consideration of Regulatory Guides to Implement the Revised 10 CFR Part 20 Requirements

The Committee was briefed on a joint ACNW/ACRS Working Group meeting, held on May 27, 1992, to review six regulatory guides to implement the revised 10 CFR Part 20 requirements. The Committee approved a report to Eric S. Beckjord, RES, recommending that several of these guides, for which ACNW had lead responsibility, be completed and issued as expeditiously as possible.

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DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

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- Rulemaking on Design Basis Events for Geologic Repository, Operations Area

The Committee met with members of the NMSS staff and reviewed the proposed rulemaking on design basis events for the high-level waste geologic repository operations area. The Committee approved a report to James M. Taylor, EDO, endorsing the publication of the proposed rule for public comment.

- Emergency Planning for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities (ISFSI) and the Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facility

The Committee reviewed and commented on the proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 72 concerning emergency planning for independent spent fuel storage installations and the monitored retrievable storage facility. The Committee approved a report to James M. Taylor, EDO, endorsing the publication of the proposed rule for public comment.

- Mined Geologic Disposal System (MGDS) Annotated Outline Skeleton Text for the Preparation of a License Application

The Committee discussed the two volume report entitled "Mined Geologic Disposal System (MGDS) Annotated Outline Skeleton Text for the Preparation of a License Application," prepared by TRW for the U.S. Department of Energy. The Committee approved a memorandum to Robert Bernero, Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, requesting that he relay the Committee's appreciation to DOE for receipt of the report and noting that future meetings with the staff are anticipated on this matter as additional information is received and evaluated.

- EPA Hazard Ranking System

The Committee was 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. This briefing was for information only. No action was taken by the Committee.

- Comprehensive Systems Analysis of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal Program

The Committee addressed a supplemental request from you, made during our meeting with the Commission on April 24, 1992, for a functional diagram that identifies the elements the Committee believes should be included in a full systems

analysis. Additional work is planned in response to this request. The Committee will keep you informed as to its progress.

- Site Characterization Plan for Yucca Mountain Prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

The Committee discussed a draft report on the DOE's Site Characterization Plan (SCP) for the proposed HLW geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Additional time will be scheduled during the 44th ACNW meeting on June 25, 1992, to continue discussions of the draft report.

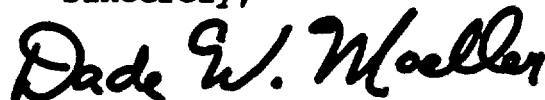
- ACNW Future Activities

- The Committee agreed to change the starting time of the 46th ACNW meeting from 8:30 a.m. on July 30, 1992, to 1:00 p.m. on July 29, 1992.
- The Committee agreed to schedule a Working Group meeting on synergistic data needs for resolving volcanic and tectonic concerns at Yucca Mountain. The Working Group will discuss the kinds of data necessary to resolve and/or move toward closure of issues in the subject areas. The Working Group will also address how and by whom that data will be analyzed.
- The Committee discussed a proposed agenda for the 47th ACNW meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held on October 21-23, 1992, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Several items of discussion were proposed, including a detailed review of a DOE Study Plan and a status report on the latest SCP update.

The members also discussed proposed site visits to the Yucca Mountain site and Beatty LLW disposal facility operated by U.S. Ecology.

Appendix A summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 44th ACNW Meeting, June 25, 1992, and future Working Group meetings.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller  
Chairman

Enclosures: As stated

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

44th ACNW Committee Meeting June 25, 1992 (Tentative Schedule)

Remedial Actions at the Hanford Site - The Committee will be briefed on the status of remedial actions at the Hanford site.

In Situ Vitrification - The Committee will receive an update on in situ vitrification of radioactive waste.

Report on Working Group Meeting on DOE's Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) for the Yucca Mountain High-Level Repository - The Chairman of the Working Group will brief the Committee on the NRC Staff's Comments on the DOE's Early Site Suitability Evaluation. A report by the Committee is expected.

Comprehensive Systems Analysis of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal Program - The Committee will continue its discussion on the supplemental request from Chairman Selin, made during the Commission meeting on April 24, 1992, for a functional diagram that identifies the elements the Committee believes should be in a full systems analysis.

Site Characterization Plan for Yucca Mountain Prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) - The Committee will continue its discussion of a draft report on the DOE's Site Characterization Plan (SCP) for the proposed HLW geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Committee Activities - 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

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

Inadvertent Human Intrusion Related to the Presence of Natural Resources at a HLW Repository Site, October 20, 1992, Las Vegas, NV  
- 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.

Synergistic Data Needs for Resolving Volcanic and Tectonic Concerns at Yucca Mountain, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD  
- The Working Group will discuss the kinds of data that are necessary to resolve and/or move toward closure of issues in the subject areas and how and by whom that data will be analyzed.