



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

PDR 8/4/92

July 27, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: *Raymond F. Fraley*
Raymond F. Fraley
Executive Director, ACNW

SUBJECT: 44TH ACNW MEETING FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Based on discussions regarding methods for improving implementation and follow-up of ACNW recommendations, a summary of "Actions, Agreements, Assignments, and Requests" made during each ACNW meeting is sent to your office following each meeting.

Attached is a summary of the "Actions, Agreements, Assignments, and Requests" made at the 44th ACNW meeting, June 25, 1992, that deal with requests made of the NRC staff or matters that are pertinent to NRC staff activities.

Attachment: As stated

cc: H. L. Thompson, EDO
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Prepared By *EMJ*

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS
44TH ACNW MEETING - JUNE 25, 1992
KENNEWICK, WA

During its 44th meeting, June 25, 1992, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters and completed the memorandum noted below.

MEMORANDUM

- NRC Staff Review of DOE Early Site Suitability Evaluation (Memorandum to B. Joe Youngblood, Director, Division of High Level Waste Management, dated July 7, 1992)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. Report on the Working Group Meeting on the Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) for the Yucca Mountain High-Level Repository

Dr. Hinze reported on the ACNW Working Group meeting held on June 17, 1992. The purpose of this meeting was to review the status of the resolution of NRC staff's comments on the early site suitability evaluation of the proposed Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository. The Committee approved a memorandum to B. Joe Youngblood, Director, Division of High Level Waste Management as noted above.

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

The Committee continued its discussion on the supplemental request from Chairman Selin, made during the Commission-ACNW meeting on April 24, 1992, for a functional diagram that identifies the elements the Committee believes should be included in a full systems analysis.

The Committee plans to identify those portions of the high-level radioactive waste program that are being adequately addressed and those portions where gaps exist that need increased attention.

3. Progress on Site Characterization for the proposed Yucca Mountain High-Level Radioactive Waste Repository

The Committee continued its discussion on the pace of site characterization activities for the proposed high-level radioactive waste geologic repository at Yucca Mountain,

Nevada. Members expressed concern about the limited progress towards resolving issues enumerated in the Site Characterization Analysis (NUREG-1347). Additional consideration will be given to this topic during the 45th ACNW meeting.

During the discussion, the Committee requested a copy of the letter from Dr. Thomas Bjerstedt, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office, dated August 28, 1991, commenting on the resolution of these issues. Mr. John Linehan, NMSS, offered to provide the letter to the Committee.

4. ACNW Future Activities

- Members requested that the meeting with the Commission, tentatively scheduled during the 45th ACNW meeting (July 29-30, 1992), be postponed. (Note: This meeting has been rescheduled for December 17, 1992).
- The Committee agreed to change the starting time for the open portion of the 46th ACNW meeting from 8:30 a.m. on September 24, 1992, to 1:00 p.m. on September 23, 1992.
- The Committee discussed plans for a meeting with the members of the U.K. Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee to discuss items of mutual interest. The meeting is scheduled for the morning of July 29, 1992. [This meeting will be closed to the public.]
- The Committee discussed a proposed agenda for the 47th ACNW meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held on October 21, 1992, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Several items of discussion were proposed, including a detailed review of a selected DOE Study Plan and a status report on the latest SCP update.
- The Committee recommended that a briefing be planned to hear about recent NRC meetings with several groups regarding disposal of solid wastes resulting from decommissioning and decontamination activities.
- The Committee reconfirmed it's intent to review the NRC HLW staff's position on penetration of the Calico Hills tuff, and the staff's review of DOE's Calico Hills/Risk Benefit Analysis.
- Appendix A summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 45th ACNW Meeting, July 29-30, 1992, and future Working Group meetings.

APPENDIX A. FUTURE SCHEDULE

45th ACNW Committee Meeting July 29-30, 1992 (Tentative Schedule)

Meeting with the Members of the U.K. Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC) (Closed) - The Committee will meet with the members of the U.K. Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee Study Group to discuss items of mutual interest.

Draft Technical Position on Repository Design - Thermal Loads (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the draft Technical Position on Repository Design - Thermal Loads. ACNW comments are requested.

Radionuclides in Recycled Scrap (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by a representative from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries on the industry's experiences with contaminated scrap and lessons learned.

Supreme Court's Decision (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the recent Supreme Court decision concerning the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985.

Comprehensive Systems Analysis of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal Program (Open) - The Committee will continue its discussion on a 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 included in a full systems analysis.

Progress on Site Characterization (Open) - The Committee will continue to review progress in the site characterization for the proposed high-level radioactive waste geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

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

Inadvertent Human Intrusion Related to the Presence of Natural Resources at a HLW Repository Site, October 20, 1992, Las Vegas, NV (Howard Larson/Lynn Deering) - 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 may 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 (Giorgio 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 the anticipated performance for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Phase 2 of the HLW Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA), December 16, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Giorgio Gnugnoli) - 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.

Synergistic Data Needs for Resolving Volcanic and Tectonic Concerns at Yucca Mountain, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Howard Larson/Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will attempt to determine what data are necessary to resolve and/or move toward closure in the subject areas. Also to be determined, is how and by whom that data will be analyzed.