



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

ACNWS-0016

PDR
3/22/90

February 9, 1990

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

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, JANUARY 24-25, 1990

During its 16th meeting, January 24-25, 1990, the Committee completed the activities noted below and prepared the following reports.

REPORTS, LETTERS AND MEMORANDA

1. NRC Program on Low-Level Radioactive Wastes (Report to Chairman Carr, dated January 30, 1990).

The Committee met with representatives of the Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning for a review of matters pertaining to the production, treatment and disposal of low-level radioactive wastes.

2. Final Rule on Storage of Spent Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Power Reactor Sites (Report to Chairman Carr, dated January 30, 1990).

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of the final rule that will permit onsite storage of spent fuel under a general license in NRC-approved dry storage casks. The staff discussed changes in the final rule, ACNW comments, public comments, CRGR comments, and future action.

3. Commission Policy Statement on Exemptions from Regulatory Control (Report to Chairman Carr, dated January 30, 1990).

The Committee provided several comments on SECY-89-360, Commission Policy Statement on Exemptions from Regulatory Control.

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ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUESTS

4. Report by American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)

The Committee was briefed by representatives of ASTM on ASTM standards and subcommittees regarding radioactive waste management. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

5. Meeting with Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

The Committee was briefed by Mr. Bernero and his staff on the redirection of planned NRC staff action regarding the definition of "Substantially Complete Containment". No Committee action was taken.

6. Geologic Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes

The Committee was briefed by Mr. Ralph Stein, OCRWM, DOE, on the status of the civilian radioactive waste management program, including program accomplishments, new initiatives, and recent changes in the projected schedule for the completion of a high-level waste geologic repository. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

7. Resignation of ACNW Member

Dr. Clifford V. Smith, Jr. announced that, due to a full commitment, he will no longer be able to devote sufficient time to serve as a member of the Committee. He stated that this will be his last meeting as an ACNW Member. His resignation was submitted on January 26, 1990.

8. ACNW/ACRS Split of Committee Responsibilities

The Members discussed and agreed to the split of responsibilities regarding the subject of decommissioning of nuclear plants. The Members also endorsed the procedures for maintaining an interface between the Committees regarding areas of mutual interest/concern.

9. Field Trip to Morris, Illinois

The Committee agreed to schedule a field trip in early April 1990 to observe operations at the Morris, Illinois off-site spent fuel storage facilities, and waste management activities at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station.

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr

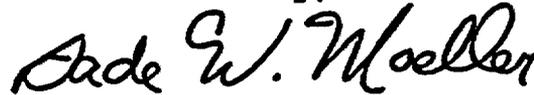
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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Appendix A summarizes the tentative agenda items that were proposed for future meetings of the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

February 21-23, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Meeting with the Commissioners (Open) - The Committee will discuss with the Commissioners items of mutual interest. Possible topics include:

- Report on trip to the West Valley Demonstration Project
- Report on trip to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
- Discuss ACNW report on the implementation of EPA high-level waste standards
- Discuss NRC low-level waste programs and activities
- Other items of mutual interest

Site Study Plans (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the review of DOE Site Characterization Study Plans, including the review approach by NRC, milestones, and criteria for selection of Study Plans for NRC technical review.

The NRC staff will present the status of their review of selected NRC Study Plans relating to the HLW repository site characterization. The plans tentatively scheduled for discussion include those on (1) Evaluation of the Location and Recency of Faulting Near Prospective Surface Facilities, and (2) Characterization of the Yucca Mountain Quaternary Regional Hydrology (tentative).

Meeting with the Chairman of the LLW Committee of the Conference of State Radiation Control Program Directors (Open) - The Committee will discuss with Mr. William P. Dornsife, Chief, Division of Nuclear Safety, Bureau of Radiation Protection, Department of Environmental Protection, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, certain LLW problem areas as viewed by the states.

Radioactive Contamination Following Decommissioning (Open) - The Committee will discuss and possibly comment on the implementation of a policy regarding the criteria for acceptable residual levels of radioactive contamination following decommissioning.

Appointment of New Members (Closed) - The Committee will discuss the qualifications of candidates proposed for appointment to the ACNW.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

March 21-23, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Pathfinder Atomic Power Plant Dismantlement (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the related dismantlement Safety Evaluation Report prepared by the NRC staff.

Technical Position on Stabilization/Waste Forms (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff and will prepare comments on modifications to the Technical Position on LLW Stabilization/Waste Forms.

EPA Radiation Protection Programs (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by representatives of EPA on their radiation protection programs other than those pertaining to high-level waste.

White Paper on Geophysics (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the DOE/USGS white paper on integration of the geophysics aspects of the repository SCP.

DOE Technical Assessment Review (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the DOE Technical Assessment Review (TAR). The TAR deals with the assessment of the "no-name fault" at the Yucca Mountain site.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

April 26-27, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Technical Position on Seismic Hazards (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the draft Technical Position on Methods of Evaluating the Seismic Hazard at a Geological Repository, including the concept of the 10,000 year cumulative slip earthquake.

Technical Position on LLW Shipment Manifest System (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the Technical Position on the LLW Shipment Manifest System.

Status of Proactive Work (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the status of proactive work in the Division of HLWM (technical positions and rules) and on NRC HLW programmatic response to changes in the DOE program.

BEIR V Report (Open) - The Committee will request a briefing on the BEIR V Report, Health Effects of Exposure to Low-Levels of Ionizing Radiation.

Standard Format and Content Regulatory Guide for High-Level Waste Repository License Applications (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the Regulatory Guide.

NRC Research Program (Open) - The Committee will discuss the NRC research program on radwaste with Dr. N. E. Todreas, Chairman, NRC's Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

May 23-25, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Technical Position on Soil Erosion (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the final Technical Position on the Design of Erosion Protection Covers for Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailing Sites.

Design Basis Accident Dose Limits (Open) - The Committee will review design basis accident dose limit for the HLW repository in the preclosure phase.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

Future Tentative Agenda Items

High-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the updated draft HLW Research Program Plan.

Low-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the updated draft LLW Research Program Plan.

Mixed Wastes (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the technical aspects of criteria for the treatment, storage and disposal of mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes.

International Programs on Radioactive Waste Disposal (Open) - The Committee will meet with Mr. Harold Denton and members of his staff to discuss international programs on radioactive waste disposal.