



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

PDR 5/13/92

March 11, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: 40TH 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 40th ACNW meeting, February 20-21, 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
J. L. Blaha, EDO
S. J. Chilk, SECY
E. J. Jordan, AEOD
R. M. Bernero, NMSS
T. E. Murley, NRR
E. S. Beckjord, RES
A. L. Eiss, NMSS
C. Abbate, NRR
W. Brown, OCM/IS
S. Bilhorn, OCM/KR
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**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS
40TH ACNW MEETING - FEBRUARY 20-21, 1992**

During its 40th meeting, February 20-21, 1992, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters, and completed the memorandum noted below.

MEMORANDUM

- Proposed Rulemaking on EPA High-Level Waste Standards (Memorandum to Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), dated February 25, 1992)

HIGHLIGHTS OF CERTAIN MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 40 CFR Part 191

Mr. Ray Clark, EPA, briefed the Committee on EPA's Draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 40 CFR Part 191, Environmental Standards for the Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes. The Committee issued a memorandum to Robert Bernero, Director, NMSS, that reflects general agreement with the positions adopted by the NRC staff in their interaction with EPA regarding this matter.

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

The Committee continued discussions of the feasibility of applying a systems approach to the analysis of the overall high-level waste program, including the short and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste, with the goal of providing recommendations as to the proposed scope of the review and the advisability of undertaking it. The Committee discussed the results of the Working Group meeting on a Systems Analysis Approach, held February 19-20, 1992. The Committee will continue its deliberations on this subject during the 41st ACNW meeting.

3. ACNW Priority Issues for 1992

The Committee discussed the priorities to be used this year for determining the course of the Committee's activities. Topics in which the Committee identified a particular interest include:

- Consideration of major issues and lessons learned from recent nuclear power plant decontamination and decommissioning activities.

- Consideration of the compatibility of State radiation control programs with those of the NRC, including the topic of additional stringency required by the states.
- Consideration of the possible importance and usefulness of developing a system of indicators of performance for LLW management and disposal programs.
- Consideration of the results from recent performance assessment activities related to both the proposed HLW repository and LLW disposal facilities.
- Consideration of DOE Study Plans under review by the NRC staff and possible independent review by ACNW of a study plan not reviewed by the NRC staff.

4. Geologic Dating of Quaternary Volcanic Features and Materials

Dr. Moeller reported that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) had responded to the ACNW report, dated December 24, 1991, on geologic dating of Quaternary volcanic features and materials. Dr. Hinze offered to meet with the NRC staff to clarify the Committee's understanding of the response. The Committee agreed to the meeting and requested that the ACNW staff schedule such a meeting on March 11, 1992.

5. Implementation Date for the Revised 10 CFR Part 20

Dr. Moeller observed that the EDO has recommended to the Commission that the implementation date for the revised 10 CFR Part 20, set for January 1, 1993, not be delayed even though several benefits would result from an appropriate delay. The industry requested a delay, in part, to become familiar with associated Regulatory Guides which will not be in final form until June 1992. The Committee requested that the NRC staff be invited to a future meeting to brief the Committee on this issue.

6. Priorities for Tests at Yucca Mountain

The members discussed the results of a report issued by the Test Prioritization Task Force, U.S. Department of Energy, that ranks the test packages to be conducted at Yucca Mountain. The Committee requested that representatives of DOE be invited to brief the Committee on the rationale for the rankings.

7. ACNW Future Activities

- The members discussed the agenda for the 44th ACNW meeting tentatively scheduled to be held on June 24-26, 1992, in Richland, Washington. The ACNW staff will confirm the meeting dates and agenda with representatives of Pacific Northwest Laboratories and the Richland Regional DOE Operations Office.
- The members discussed the feasibility of a site visit to the Surry Nuclear Power Plant (8 miles south of Williamsburg, Virginia). The Committee expressed interest in seeing an onsite waste disposal operation and a dry-cask spent fuel storage facility. The Committee agreed to place a visit to this site on its list of future agenda items.
- The Committee requested that the periodic meeting with the NRC Commissioners be postponed from the 41st ACNW meeting (March 12-13, 1992) to either the 42nd ACNW meeting (April 23-24, 1992) or the 43rd ACNW meeting (May 28-29, 1992). (Note: This meeting has been postponed to April).
- The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing by the NRC CRGR which is studying the elimination of regulations to reduce regulatory burden without any compromise of safety. This briefing will be for information only.

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.

APPENDIX A. FUTURE SCHEDULE

41st ACNW Committee Meeting March 12-13, 1992 (Tentative Schedule)

High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by representatives of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and other interested parties on the High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan.

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program (Open) - The Committee will continue to consider 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.

In this regard, the Committee will be briefed by a representative of Virginia Power Company who will present a industry perspective on a systems analysis approach to the high-level waste program.

Special Review of NRC Regulations (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on a special review of existing NRC regulations to determine whether regulatory burdens can be reduced without in any way reducing the protection for public health and safety.

Report on the Meeting with the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), DOE (Open) - Drs. Moeller and Steindler will report on their meeting with Dr. John Bartlett, Director, OCRWM, DOE.

Report on the Meeting with the NRC Staff (Open) - Drs. Hinze and Pomeroy will report on their meeting with the NRC staff regarding geologic dating of Quaternary volcanic features and materials.

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

Working Group Meetings

The Impact of Long-Range Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, May 27, 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 the anticipated performance for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Methods for Assessing the Presence of Natural Resources at the Proposed HLW Repository Site, July 29, 1992, 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.