



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

January 21, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: 38TH 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 38th ACNW meeting, December 18-19, 1991, 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
- J. Kotra, OCM/JC
- R. R. Boyle, OCM/FR
- W. D. Travers, NRR
- D. M. Crutchfield, NRR
- P. Guinn, OCM/GP

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS
38TH ACNW MEETING - DECEMBER 18-19, 1991

During its 38th meeting, December 18-19, 1991, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters, completed and authorized the reports noted below.

REPORTS

- Program Plan for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
(Report to Chairman Selin, dated December 23, 1991)
- Geologic Dating of Quaternary Volcanic Features and Materials
(Report to Chairman Selin, dated December 24, 1991)

HIGHLIGHTS OF CERTAIN MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

The Committee was briefed by Mr. Alex Radin on the report of the Monitored Retrievable Storage Review Commission. The Committee will continue to investigate the feasibility of using a systems analysis approach to review the overall high-level waste program, including the short and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste, with the goal of developing its recommendations as to the scope of the review and the advisability of undertaking it.

- Meeting with the NRC Commissioners

The Committee met with the Commissioners to discuss items of mutual interest. The principle topics of discussion were:

- The reports to Commissioner Rogers on the NRC staff's performance assessment and computer modeling capabilities for HLW and LLW disposal facilities
- The recent Working Group meeting on geologic dating
- A status report on the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program.

- Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository

The Committee began its review of the Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository. A report is expected to be completed during the 39th ACNW meeting on January 15-17, 1992.

• Election of ACNW Officers

The Committee reelected Dr. Dade W. Moeller and Dr. Martin J. Steindler to the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for calendar year 1992.

• ACNW Future Activities

- The Committee agreed to defer indefinitely the Working Group meeting (scheduled for January 15, 1992) to discuss the need for, and status of, proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 61.
- The Committee agreed to extend the 39th ACNW meeting to provide adequate time to discuss the Committee's long range plans. The 39th ACNW meeting will be held January 15-17, 1992.
- The members discussed a proposed agenda for the 44th ACNW meeting to be tentatively held on June 24-26, 1992, in Richland, Washington. The members recommended that a public meeting be held either at Pacific Northwest Laboratories or the DOE Richland Regional Operations Office as appropriate.

Facility tours will be scheduled before and after the 44th ACNW meeting with representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Facilities and the U.S. Ecology low-level waste disposal facility. Items of possible interest include:

- Grouting Program for LLW
 - N-Reactor Decommissioning
 - Performance Assessment and Decontamination
 - Waste Tank Stabilization and Hydrogen-Control
 - Hydrology Modeling Capabilities
- Dr. Pomeroy requested a meeting with the members of HLW NRC staff to discuss the use of "expert judgment" in performance assessment.
 - The Committee agreed to defer a status briefing on the Licensing Support System. The ACNW staff will provide information on the status of this work to the members.
 - The Committee agreed to invite Mr. Harold Denton to brief the Committee on SECY-91-365, International Standards, as it relates to nuclear waste.

- The Committee asked to be kept informed on the NRC and the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to develop joint guidance on mixed waste testing and storage.
- The Committee agreed to invite Mr. Michael Mattia, Director of Risk Management, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, to brief the Committee on practice and procedures of the recycling industry in dealing with radioactive materials found in the recycling process.
- The Committee agreed to indefinitely defer further work on the impacts of the Clean Air Act on uranium mill tailings and the proposed revision of 40 CFR Part 61, Subparts I, T, and W.

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

39th ACNW Committee Meeting January 15-17, 1992

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program - The Committee will continue deliberations to investigate the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to review the overall high-level waste programs, including the short and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste, with the goal of developing its recommendations as to the scope of the review and the advisability of undertaking it.

Revision to NUREG-1200 - The Committee will review and comment on a proposed revision to NUREG-1200, Standard Review Plan for a Low-Level Waste Facility.

Staff Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository - The Committee will complete its review and comment on the draft Staff Technical Position on the "Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository."

Presentation at the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting - The Committee will discuss a paper being prepared by the ACNW for presentation at the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting. The paper will be based on reports recently issued by the ACNW on various low-level radioactive waste topics

Working Group Meetings

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program, February 19, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Larson) - The Working Group will continue to discuss the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program, including the short- and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste.

The Impact of Long-Term Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, April 21-22, 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 performance for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Residual Contamination Clean-up Criteria, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Gnugnoli) - The Working Group will review the guidelines for radionuclide contamination limits for unrestricted use of sites and facilities that are or have been under NRC license, or were at one time under AEC license.

Methods for Assessing the Presence of Natural Resources at the Proposed HLW Repository Site, (Date to be determined), 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.