



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

ACNWR-0084

PDR

December 22, 1992

Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Bernero:

SUBJECT: ITERATIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PHASE 2

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) held a Working Group meeting on December 16, 1992, to evaluate the current status of the NRC staff's Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA) Phase 2. The ACNW also discussed this subject during its 49th meeting on December 17 and 18, 1992. An additional objective of the Working Group meeting was to compare the IPA results with the U.S. Department of Energy's Total System Performance Assessment. Participating in the Working Group meeting were performance assessment specialists from the NRC staff and the DOE's High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Program staff and representatives from the State of Nevada. This letter provides our initial comments on Phase 2 of the NRC staff's IPA.

1. The NRC staff has made notable progress in IPA since the completion of Phase 1, and deserve commendation for this major effort. They have clearly stated the objectives of the program, carried Phase 2 work nearly to completion, and they have delineated reasonable goals for future performance assessment (PA) work.
2. The staff should be provided adequate resources to meet their expanding responsibilities in this area. We note with interest the Strategic Plan being developed to guide these activities. This Plan should provide for expanded utilization of codes and other tools developed elsewhere.
3. The ACNW has significant concerns regarding the PA process and its application. One example is the treatment of uncertainties. We plan to study these matters and will communicate our comments and suggestions to you shortly.

We are looking forward to reviewing the Strategic Plan for HLW Performance Assessment being developed by the NRC staff. Additional information and further insights on the above comments are

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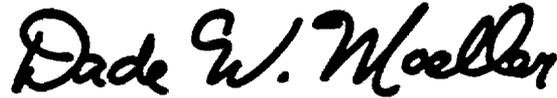
Mr. Robert M. Bernero

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December 22, 1992

available from the transcripts of the Working Group meeting and the discussion of the ACNW during the latter half of the first day of our 49th meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman