

PDR 5/13/92



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

December 20, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: 37TH 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 37th ACNW meeting, November 20-21, 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
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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS
37TH ACNW MEETING - NOVEMBER 20-21, 1991

During its 37th meeting, November 20-21, 1991, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters, completed the reports and letters, and authorized the memoranda noted below.

REPORTS

- NRC Capabilities in Performance Assessment and Computer Modeling of High-Level Waste Disposal Facilities (Report to Commissioner Rogers, dated December 2, 1991)
- NRC Capabilities in Computer Modeling and Performance Assessment of Low-Level Waste Disposal Facilities (Report to Commissioner Rogers, dated December 2, 1991)
- Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) M910725A Dated August 21, 1991 (Report to Chairman Selin, dated December 2, 1991)

MEMORANDA

- Reports of Invited Experts Following the October 16-17, 1991 Working Group Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (Memorandum to Commissioner Rogers from Raymond F. Fraley, dated November 29, 1991)
- ACNW Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 1992 (Memorandum to Listed Addressees from Raymond F. Fraley, dated November 27, 1991)

LETTERS

- Letter to Dr. David Morrison, Chairman, Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee, regarding Interaction between our two Committees (Letter from Dade W. Moeller, ACNW Chairman, dated November 26, 1991)
- Proposed Paper on Metrication Policy (Letter to Eric S. Beckjord, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, dated December 2, 1991)

HIGHLIGHTS OF CERTAIN MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

- Performance Assessment and Computer Modeling Capabilities

The Committee completed its deliberations on the request from Commissioner Rogers to evaluate whether the NRC staff has developed a suitable performance assessment program and computer modeling capabilities, and whether the NRC staff has

adequate equipment, expertise, and training to conduct such analyses for the disposal of high-level and low-level wastes.

In addition to the issuance of the two reports noted above, the reports prepared by the invited experts following the Working Group meeting, October 16-17, 1991, were sent to Commissioner Rogers on November 29, 1991 and the NRC staff.

- Working Group on Geologic Dating of Quaternary Volcanic Materials

Dr. William Hinze, Chairman of the Working Group on Geologic Dating, reported to the Committee on the results of the Working Group meeting, held November 19, 1991.

The Committee agreed to schedule another Working Group meeting to revisit the issues related to dating of geologic features, specifically to investigate dating techniques for faults where the uncertainties are large.

- Management and Disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste

The Committee members discussed with Dr. Michael Tokar, Acting Branch Chief, LLWM, the revisions proposed by the NRC staff to 10 CFR Part 61 with Dr. Michael Tokar, Acting Branch Chief, LLWM. Of particular interest were the proposed changes related to above-grade disposal facilities and groundwater protection requirements for low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities. Dr. Pomeroy requested that the members receive copies of the two draft SECY reports on proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 61.

- ACNW Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 1992

Listed below are the dates that have been selected for ACNW meetings during the calendar year 1992. The Committee plans to hold two meetings away from headquarters, the 44th meeting in Richland, Washington, and the 48th meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. These two proposed meetings will permit the Committee to tour radioactive waste management sites in these areas and to hold discussions, which include the public, on issues pertinent to local waste management activities.

39th	January 15-17, 1992
40th	February 20-21, 1992
41st	March 12-13, 1992
42nd	April 23-24, 1992
43rd	May 28-29, 1992
44th	June 25-26, 1992
45th	July 30-31, 1992

37th ACNW Meeting
November 20-21, 1991

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46th	August 13-14, 1992 (Tentative)
47th	September 24-25, 1992
48th	October 22-23, 1992
49th	November 19-20, 1992
50th	December 17-18, 1992

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

38th ACNW Committee Meeting December 18-19, 1991 (Tentative Schedule)

Systems Analysis Approach to the Transportation, Interim Storage, and Final Disposal of High-Level Waste (Open) - The Committee will continue to work on a response to Chairman Selin on a system analysis approach to the transportation, interim storage, and final disposal of high-level waste.

Meeting with the NRC Commissioners (Open) - The Committee will meet with the Commissioners on December 19, 1991, to discuss items of mutual interest, including:

- The reports to Commissioner Rogers on performance assessment and computer modeling capabilities for HLW and LLW disposal facilities
- A summary of the recent Working Group meeting on geologic dating
- A status report on a systems analysis approach to the transportation, interim storage, and final disposal of HLW

Staff Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository (Open) - The Committee will review the Final Technical Position on the Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository.

Working Group on Seismic and Faulting Investigations for Characterization of a High-Level Waste Repository Site (Open) - The Working Group Chairman will report on a meeting to discuss the staff's responses to public comments on a technical position on faulting and seismic investigations for a geologic repository.

ACNW Four-Month Plan (Open) - The Committee will prepare its four-month plan to the Commission for the period January-April 1992.

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

Working Group Meetings

Seismic and Faulting Investigations for Characterization of a High-Level Waste Repository Site, December 17, 1991, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Abrams) - The Working Group will discuss faulting and seismic investigations of a proposed HLW site. Discussions will include representatives of DOE, State of Nevada, American Society of Civil Engineers, U.S. Geologic Survey, Edison Electric Institute, and the NRC staff.

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall the Transportation, Interim Storage, and Final Disposal of High-Level Waste Program, February 19, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Larson) - The Working Group will continue to prepare a response to Chairman Selin on a system analysis approach to the transportation, interim storage, and final disposal of high-level waste.

The Impact of Long-Term Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, March 11, 1992, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Abrams) - The Working Group will discuss the historical evidence and the potential for climate changes in the Southern Basin and Range and their associated impact on performance assessment 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, (Date to be determined), 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Abrams) - 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.