



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

ACNWS-0039

PDR 5/13/92

February 14, 1992

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, JANUARY 15-17, 1992

During the 39th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste,
January 15-17, 1992, we discussed several matters and completed the
activities noted below including the report and memoranda listed.

REPORT

- NRC Staff Technical Position on "The Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository" (Report to you, dated January 24, 1992)

MEMORANDA

- Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Facility (NUREG-1200) (Memorandum to Richard L. Bangart, Director, Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning, NMSS, dated January 23, 1992)
- Summaries of the September 1991 EPRI Workshop on EPA's HLW Standards and the December 1991 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting (Memorandum to Commissioner Rogers from Raymond Fraley, dated January 29, 1992)
- Document on International Perspectives on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (Memorandum to Commissioner Remick from Raymond Fraley, dated January 28, 1992)

HIGHLIGHTS OF MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

- Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility (NUREG-1200)

The Committee reviewed and commented on a proposed revision to

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NUREG-1200, Standard Review Plan for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility.

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

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

The Committee completed its review of the draft Staff Technical Position on the "Identification of Fault Displacement and Seismic Hazards at a Geologic Repository" and transmitted its comments to you in a report dated January 24, 1992.

- Proposed Amendment to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

Mr. Fraley briefed the Committee on the NRC's response to a bill recently introduced in the Senate that would make significant modifications to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee decided to take no further action on this matter.

- Report on Meetings with Commissioners Curtiss and de Planque

Drs. Steindler and Pomeroy reported on their meeting with Commissioner Curtiss on January 15, 1992. They discussed your request regarding a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, groundwater travel time, and the staff technical position on seismic faulting.

Dr. Hinze and I reported on our meeting with Commissioner de Planque on January 15, 1992. We discussed your request regarding a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall HLW program, geologic dating, and the future activities of the Committee.

- Report on Meeting with the Director of the Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning

I reported on a meeting with Mr. Richard Bangart, Director,

LLWM, and Mr. Paul Lohaus on December 20, 1991. We discussed the proposed revisions to 10 CFR Part 61 Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste, low-level waste performance assessment, residual contamination limits, and several other items of mutual interest.

- Report on Meeting with the Chief, Geosciences and Systems Performance Branch, HWLM

Dr. Pomeroy reported on his meeting with Ms. Margaret Federline, Chief, Geosciences and Systems Performance Branch, on January 14, 1992. Topics discussed included the use of expert judgment in high-level waste performance analysis, and the NRC's capabilities in performance assessment and computer modeling.

- DOE Study Plan

The Committee discussed the status of the DOE Study Plans currently under review by the NRC staff. The Committee discussed the possibility of conducting an indepth Committee analysis of the DOE Study Plan for Characterization of Yucca Mountain Regional Surface-Water Runoff and Stream Flow. The Committee concluded that it would select a different study plan in the future for an indepth Committee analysis.

- ACNW Future Activities

- The Committee agreed to indefinitely defer the Working Group meeting on the residual radioactive clean-up criteria levels for unrestricted use of contaminated sites that are or have been under NRC license. The staff members at NRC and EPA are working on the development of such criteria. The Committee will await the results of these efforts.
- The members discussed the 44th ACNW meeting tentatively scheduled to be held on June 23-25, 1992, in Richland, Washington. The ACNW staff will firm up meeting dates and an agenda with representatives of Pacific Northwest Laboratories and the Richland Regional DOE Operations Office.

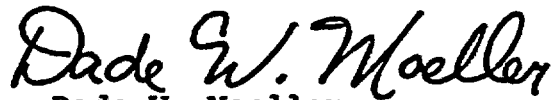
The Honorable Ivan Selin

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Appendix A summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 40th ACNW Meeting, February 20-21, 1992, and future Working Group meetings.

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" at the beginning.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Enclosures: As stated

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

40th ACNW Committee Meeting February 20-21, 1992

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. The Committee will discuss the results of a February 19, 1992 working group meeting on this topic.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's high-level waste standards (40 CFR Part 191) (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by representatives of EPA on working draft #4 of 40 CFR Part 191.

Report on the EPRI Follow-on Meeting (Open) - The Committee will hear a report on the Electric Power Research Institute meeting, held February 4-6, 1992, on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's high-level waste standards (40 CFR Part 191).

Report on the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting (Open) - The Committee will hear a report on the Low-Level Waste Forum Winter Meeting held in San Diego, California, on January 29-31, 1992.

Report on the Meeting with Dr. David Morrison (Open) - Dr. Moeller will report on his meeting with Dr. David Morrison, Chairman, Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee.

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

Systems Analysis Approach to Reviewing the Overall High-Level Waste Program, February 19 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Room P-422) and 20 (tentative, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Room P-110), 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, May 26-27, 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 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.