

ACNW COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT REPORTS - 016

Submitted in Accordance with
Sections 10 and 13
of the
Federal Advisory Committee Act

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C O N T E N T S

I) SUMMARY LETTER

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

March 14, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, FEBRUARY 21-22, 1990

During its 17th meeting, February 21-22, 1990, the Committee completed the activities noted below.

1. Discussion and Comment on Study Plans Related to the High-Level Waste Repository Site Characterization

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the purpose, goals, and review process for the DOE Study Plans. The Committee was also briefed on the Study Plan on Evaluation of the Recency of Faulting Near Prospective Surface Facilities.

A memorandum from Dr. Moeller, dated February 26 1990, was sent to Mr. Robert Browning, Director, Division of High-Level Waste Management, expressing the Committee's interest in being kept informed and in reviewing selected DOE Study Plans.

2. Meeting with the Commissioners (February 21, 1990)

Members discussed the Committee's visits to the West Valley Demonstration Project and to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses.

Dr. Steindler discussed the ACNW report on implementation of EPA Standards. Chairman Carr requested that the Committee provide more specific advice regarding the NRC position on EPA's reevaluation of the environmental radiation protection standards for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, high-level and transuranic radioactive wastes.

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Dr. Moeller discussed the Committee's report, dated January 30, 1990, on the Commission policy statement on Exemption from Regulatory Control.

Dr. Moeller noted that an agreement on division of responsibilities had been reached between the ACRS and ACNW consistent with guidance provided by the Commission. The Commissioners were informed by memorandum from Mr. Fraley dated February 23, 1990 regarding the handling of 10 CFR Part 50 items.

3. Review of Low-Level Waste Issues

The Committee was briefed by Mr. William Dornsife, Chief, Division of Nuclear Safety, Department of Environmental Protection, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on an overview of the state's perspective on low-level waste issues. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

4. Implementation of a Policy for Criteria for Residual Levels of Radioactivity Following Decommissioning

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the draft SECY paper with which the staff seeks to obtain Commission approval on the publication for comment of the interim residual contamination criteria for the unrestricted release of soils and structures at decommissioned facilities. The Committee was also briefed on NUREG/CR-5512, "Residual Radioactive Contamination from Decommissioning, Technical Basis for Translating Contamination Levels to Annual Dose, Draft Report for Comment".

The Committee members and consultants provided comments on both documents for staff consideration. The Committee agreed that a letter on the interim criteria would not be needed at this time. The staff agreed to incorporate the Committee's comments as appropriate and return for further discussion with the Committee.

5. EPA's Proposed Revisions of the Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for the Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes

In response to Commissioner Carr's request for additional guidance on the implementability of the EPA Standards, the Committee agreed to invite representatives from the following organizations to their next meeting:

- Environmental Protection Agency

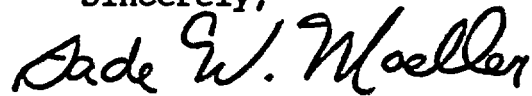
- EPA's Science Advisory Board, High-Level Waste Disposal Subcommittee
- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
- National Academy of Sciences Board on Radioactive Waste Management
- Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety, DOE
- U.S. General Accounting Office
- New Mexico's Environmental Evaluation Group

The invitees will be asked to address issues, such as the question of the deterministic versus probabilistic approach, whether the standards are too stringent, what standards would they propose and why, and other issues of mutual interest and concern.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Appendix A summarizes the tentative agenda that were proposed for future meetings of the Committee.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

March 22-23, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Low-Level Waste Management by the State of Illinois (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by Mr. Van Vliet, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, on the status of low-level waste management in Illinois.

EPA's Proposed Revisions in the Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for the Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes (Open) - The Committee will invite representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board (EPA), Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the National Academy of Sciences Board on Nuclear Wastes, and the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety (DOE), to discuss EPA's proposed revisions in these standards.

International Programs on Radioactive Waste Disposal (Open) - The Committee will meet with representatives of the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs to discuss international programs on radioactive waste disposal.

Appointment of New Members (Closed) - The Committee will discuss the qualifications of candidates proposed for appointment to the ACNW.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

Working Group Meeting (Date to be announced)

Geological Mapping Studies (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by representatives of either the Bureau of Reclamation or the Corps of Engineers on concerns about the geological mapping for the exploratory shaft emplacement and the proposed changes in the drilling of the exploratory shaft.

April 26-27, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Pathfinder Atomic Power Plant Dismantlement (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the related dismantlement Safety Evaluation Report prepared by the NRC staff.

Technical Position on Stabilization/Waste Forms (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff and will prepare comments on modifications to the Technical Position on LLW Stabilization/Waste Forms.

Yucca Quaternary Regional Hydrology Study Plan (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the Characterization of the Yucca Quaternary Regional Hydrology Study Plan (Tentative).

"White Paper" on Geophysics (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the DOE/USGS white paper on integration of the geophysics aspects of the repository SCP.

Results of Waste Confidence Review Group (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the final review report including the disposition of public comments. ACNW review requested by the NRC staff. Report expected by the end of March 1990.

BEIR V Report (Open) - The Committee will request a briefing on the BEIR V Report, Health Effects of Exposure to Low-Levels of Ionizing Radiation.

Standard Format and Content Regulatory Guide for High-Level Waste Repository License Applications (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the Regulatory Guide.

NRC Research Program (Open) - The Committee will discuss the NRC research program on radwaste with Dr. Neil E. Todreas, Chairman, NRC's Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

May 23-25, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Technical Position on Seismic Hazards (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the draft Technical Position on Methods of Evaluating the Seismic Hazard at a Geological

Repository, including the concept of the 10,000 year cumulative slip earthquake. Review requested by the staff. Deferred from January 1990 meeting.

Technical Position on Soil Erosion (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the final Technical Position on the Design of Erosion Protection Covers for Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailing Sites. Technical Position is needed by the end of April 1990.

Design Basis Accident Dose Limit (Open) - The Committee will review the design basis accident dose limit for the HLW repository in the preclosure phase.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.

June 28-29, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

High-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the updated draft HLW Research Program Plan. Draft updated plan to be provided in April 1990.

Low-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the updated draft LLW Research Program Plan. Draft updated plan to be provided in April 1990.

Mixed Wastes (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the technical aspects of criteria for the treatment, storage and disposal of mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes.

Status of Proactive Work (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the status of proactive work in the Division of HLWM (technical positions and rules) and on NRC programmatic response to changes in the DOE program.

Committee Activities (Open) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.