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

May 23, 1990

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

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, APRIL 26-27, 1990

During its 19th meeting, April 26-27, 1990, the Committee completed
the activities noted below and prepared the following reports.

REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

- Critique of the Environmental Protection Agency's Standards for Disposal of High-Level Wastes (Report to Chairman Carr, dated May 1, 1990)
- Program Plan for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (Report to Chairman Carr, dated May 1, 1990)
- Waste Confidence Decision Review (Report to Chairman Carr, dated May 1, 1990)

OTHER ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS

- Status Report on Characterization of the Yucca Quaternary Regional Hydrology Study Plan

The Committee heard a status report by the NRC staff on its review of the DOE Study Plan for the Characterization of the Yucca Mountain Quaternary Regional Hydrology. Dr. Moeller stated that the Committee will review NRC staff comments to DOE on this Study Plan when they are available. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

- ACNW Future Activities

- a. Human Intrusion and Carbon-14 Issues

Dr. Hinze recommended that the Committee should have a briefing on the 40 CFR Part 191 approach to human intrusion and concerns with EPA release limits for carbon-14 at the proposed high-level waste repository.

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b. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compacts

Dr. Steindler recommended that the Committee receive periodic updates on the site selection activities of the state compacts.

c. EPRI Study on Probabilistic Risk Assessment for the Proposed Yucca Mountain High-Level Waste Repository

Dr. Hinze suggested that the Committee invite representatives from EPRI to provide a briefing on the EPRI work on the application of PRA to the proposed Yucca Mountain repository after the report is issued. This report is expected to be issued during September, 1990, and a Committee briefing will be scheduled shortly thereafter.

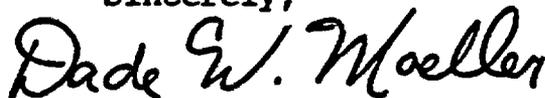
d. Discussion on the Use of the Term "representativeness"

Dr. Hinze recommended that the Committee meet with the NRC staff to discuss the use of the term "representativeness" as it pertains to NRC staff's review of DOE's methodology for characterization of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository site.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

May 24-25, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

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 Tailings Sites. The NRC staff expects to complete the development of this Technical Position by the end of May 1990.

Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the systematic regulatory analysis (Program Architecture) for the high-level waste repository.

Licensing Support System (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the status of the Licensing Support System in light of DOE schedule changes.

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)

Definition of the Term "Representativeness" (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the definition of "representativeness" as it pertains to NRC staff's review of DOE's methodology for three-dimensional characterization of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository site.

Alternative Exploratory Shaft Facility Construction Techniques (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on alternative exploratory shaft facility construction techniques from both engineering and geoscience perspectives.

Pathfinder Atomic Power Plant Dismantlement (Open) - The Committee will review the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report. The final SER is expected to be issued by the end of May 1990. ACNW comments are requested.

Low-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the draft updated LLW Research Program Plan. A copy of the draft updated plan is to be provided to the Committee in May 1990.

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

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BEIR V Report (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by a representative of the National Research Council on the BEIR V Report, "Health Effects of Exposure to Low-Levels of Ionizing Radiation".

Iodine-129 Source Term (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by representatives of EPRI and NUMARC on a methodology for predicting the iodine-129 source term for low-level radioactive waste sites.

NRC Comments on EPA Standards (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the comments on proposed EPA standards for the geologic disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

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)

Migration of Carbon-14 (Open) - The Working Group will be briefed on the potential problems that could arise at a high-level repository as a result of carbon-14 migration. This will include a discussion of concerns with EPA release limits for carbon-14.

Human Intrusion (Open) - The Working Group will be briefed on the 40 CFR Part 191 approach to human intrusion at a high-level waste repository. This will be designed to explore the range of current thinking from various groups in the U.S. and other countries.

July 30-31, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

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.

NRC Research Program (Open) - The Committee will discuss the NRC research program on the management and disposal of radioactive wastes with representatives of NRC's Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee.

High-Level Waste Research Program Plan Update (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the draft updated HLW Research Program Plan. A copy of the draft updated plan is to be provided to the Committee in June 1990.

Trip Report (Open) - Dr. Linda Lehman, Lehman and Associates, will brief the Committee on her recent visits to the Soviet Union to review their radioactive waste management activities.

Quality Assessment Activities (Open) - The Committee plans to meet with NRC staff to receive an update on QA activities associated with the HLW repository.

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

August 29-31, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

Rulemaking on LLW Shipment Manifest System (Open) - The Committee will review and comment on the proposed rulemaking on the LLW Shipment Manifest System.

Accident Dose Criteria (Open) - The Committee will be briefed by the NRC staff on the status of the proposed rulemaking on postulated accident dose criteria for HLW repository operations.

EPA Standards (Open) - The Committee will continue discussion on EPA standards for high-level radioactive waste disposal in a geologic repository (per memorandum from F. Galpin, EPA, to D. Moeller, ACNW). Working draft #3 of the standard is to be issued prior to this meeting.

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