



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555
June 18, 1990

ACNWS-0020
PDR 6/27/90

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

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, MAY 24-25, 1990

During its 20th meeting, May 24-25, 1990, the Committee completed
the activities noted below and prepared the following reports.

REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

- Final Staff Technical Position on the Design of Erosion Protection Covers for Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailings Sites (Report to Chairman Carr, dated May 31, 1990) Editorial comments were provided directly to the NRC regarding this paper.
- Review of NRC Staff Comments on Working Draft No. 2 of EPA's High-Level Waste Disposal Standards (Report to Chairman Carr, dated June 1, 1990)

OTHER ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS

- Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA)
The Committee was briefed by representatives of CNWRA on Program Architecture, an integrated systems analysis of the statutory and regulatory framework for the high-level radioactive waste program.
The representatives of CNWRA also addressed the regulatory, institutional, and technical uncertainties identified thus far. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.
- Licensing Support System (LSS)
The Committee was briefed by the LSS Administrator on the status of the LSS in light of DOE schedule changes. DOE plans to issue a Request for Proposals for the procurement of the LSS in August 1991, and plans to award the contract in April 1992. During FY 1990 - 1994, a broad range of criteria and

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procedures related to LSS design and operation will be developed and/or evaluated by the LSS Administrator. This will include criteria and procedures related to document header design, indexing requirements, handling of privileged material, etc. The Committee requested to be kept informed on the status of the document header design and prioritization of document input. The staff agreed.

During the discussion on the role of the LSS Advisory Review Panel (LSSARP), the Committee requested that future minutes of LSSARP be provided. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

◦ ACNW Future Activities

In addition to those activities listed in the ACNW Program Plan, dated May 1, 1990, the ACNW members identified the following additional areas of interest.

a. Future ACNW/ACRS Letter on Decommissioning Responsibilities

In response to a request from the NRC Chairman, the Committee discussed the scope and nature of a proposed joint ACNW/ACRS letter to the Commission on decommissioning responsibilities. The purpose of this letter would be to delineate the responsibilities of the two Committees regarding various aspects of decommissioning. Further discussion of this proposed letter will be scheduled during the next meeting.

b. Annual Report on ACNW Activities and Future Plans

The Committee agreed that an annual report summarizing past ACNW contributions and future ACNW missions and goals should be prepared. Further discussion of this proposed report will be scheduled during the next meeting.

c. Human Intrusion and Carbon-14 Migration Issues

The Committee discussed the feasibility of having a working group meeting 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. A possible working group meeting in July was considered.

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

The Committee agreed to indefinitely defer a briefing on the use of the term "representativeness" as it pertains to NRC staff's review of DOE's methodology for three-dimensional characterization of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository site. The briefing will be scheduled after the NRC staff has issued a position paper on this subject.

e. Alternative Exploratory Shaft Facility Construction Techniques

The Committee agreed to indefinitely defer a briefing on alternative exploratory shaft facility construction techniques from both engineering and geoscience perspectives. The briefing will be scheduled after the NRC staff has issued a position paper on this subject.

However, the Committee agreed to schedule time during the next meeting to see two films on tunnel boring machines and be briefed on excavation techniques for information only.

f. Proposed Revision 1 to the Branch Technical Position on Solidification of Low-Level Radioactive Wastes

The Committee decided to review this proposed revision after it has been published for public comment. Revision 2 is expected to be submitted to the Committee for review prior to its publication as a final Branch Technical Position.

g. Radioactive Waste Research Program

Based on guidance from Chairman Carr, the Committee deferred any review or action on the NRC research programs related to high-level and low-level wastes.

h. DOE Study Plans

Based on guidance from Chairman Carr, the Committee agreed to limit its review of NRC evaluations of DOE Study Plans for the Characterization of the Yucca Mountain site to Study Plans of special significance. The Committee also agreed to advise the Commission of any deficiencies noted in the process.

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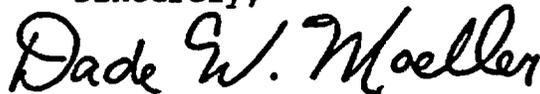
i. NESHAPS EPA Proposal

Dr. Moeller noted EPA's proposal for the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). The Committee will continue plans to review the EPA proposal.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Appendix A summarizes the tentative agenda items that were proposed for future meetings of the Committee. This list includes items proposed by the NRC staff as well as the ACNW members.

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

APPENDIX A. FUTURE AGENDA

June 28-29, 1990 (Tentative Agenda)

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.

Annual Report on ACNW Activities and Future Plans (Open) - The Committee will discuss an annual report that summarizes past ACNW accomplishments and future ACNW goals and priorities.

Tunnel and Shaft Boring Techniques (Open) - The Committee will see two films on boring machines and be briefed on excavation techniques.

Off-site Spent Fuel Storage (Open) - The Committee will be briefed and watch a video presentation on the off-site spent fuel storage and transportation experience at the Morris, Illinois, facility.

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

Migration of Carbon-14 (Open) - An ACNW Working Group will be briefed and report to the full Committee on the potential problems that could arise at a high-level repository as a result of carbon-14 release and migration. This will include a discussion of EPA release limits for this radio-nuclide.

Human Intrusion (Open) - An ACNW Working Group will examine how human intrusion at a high-level waste repository will be dealt with under 10 CFR Part 60 considerations and report to the full Committee. This will include discussion of the WIPP experience and 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)

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 June 1990. ACNW comments are requested.

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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. (The revision of SECY 88-285 is expected to be released in June.)

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

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