



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

ACNWS-0054

PDR
2/17/94

August 16, 1993

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, JULY 20-22, 1993

During its 55th meeting, July 20-22, 1993, held at 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters as noted below.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Quality Assurance

The Committee was briefed by and held discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on progress made by the NRC and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in the area of high-level radioactive waste (HLW) management quality assurance. In addition, the Committee was briefed on internal QA audits for the NRC staff's review of the DOE HLW activities and investigations, as well as for research and technical assistance activities of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses.

This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken at this meeting.

2. Decommissioning and Decontamination Activities

The Committee was briefed by and held discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, Public Service of Colorado, and Long Island Power Authority on the status of the decommissioning plans for the Fort St. Vrain and Shoreham Nuclear Power Plants.

This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken at this meeting as a result of this briefing.

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3. Meetings with Commissioners Rogers, de Planque, and Remick

The Committee met with Commissioners Rogers and de Planque on July 21, 1993, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and with Commissioner Remick from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Office, OWFN to discuss matters related to the operation of the ACNW.

4. Visit to Canadian Research Laboratories

The Committee heard a report by ACNW members and AENL staff on their visit on June 23-24, 1993, to the Canadian Research Laboratories (Whiteshell and Underground Research Laboratories), Pinawa, Manitoba Province, Canada.

This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken as a result of this briefing.

5. DOE Workshop on the Multi-Purpose Canister

Dr. Moeller reported on his participation in the DOE's Workshop on the multi-purpose canister (MPC) for storage, transportation and disposal of HLW that was held in Crystal City, Virginia, on July 1-2, 1993. Summary Reports and a Conceptual Design Report will be issued by DOE in time for a follow-up workshop in October of this year.

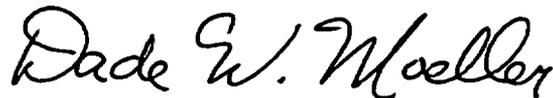
This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken as a result of this briefing.

6. Committee Activities/Future Agenda

- The Committee agreed to prepare and submit a "White Paper" to the Commissioners that discusses the identification of key topics, the bases for their selection, how the Committee plans to address them, the required resources needed, and procedures for interacting with outside agencies.
- Since an improved communication mechanism will be established, the Committee expressed interest in discontinuing the submission of the quarterly program plan report to Chairman Selin.
- The Committee agreed that the members and the Executive Director should meet with the individual Commissioners more often, perhaps on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Dr. Pomeroy suggested that it may be of value to encourage the Commissioners' Technical Assistants to attend more Committee meetings.

- As one step in conserving resources, the Committee agreed not to review any DOE Study Plans for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Program, unless specifically requested by the Commission.
- The following activities were scheduled for the 56th ACNW Meeting, August 25-26, 1993, Bethesda, Maryland:
- Executive Session (Open/Closed) - The Committee will discuss a strategy for implementing the recent directives from the Commission, including changes required by the revised ACNW charter. The development of methods for ACNW operation, the identification of candidates for appointment to the Committee, and confirmation of topical areas for ACNW review will form the central focus of the meeting.
- Committee Activities (Open/Closed) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate. In addition, the members will discuss matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings if time is available.
- The Committee reconfirmed its plan to hold the 58th ACNW meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 27-28, 1993. Current plans are to have a technical exchange with representatives of the DOE Yucca Mountain Project Office and a site visit to Yucca Mountain. In conjunction with this trip, a working group meeting will be held on October 26, 1993, in Las Vegas on Characterization of the Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport Properties.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman