



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

ACNWS-0055

PDR
2/17/94

October 25, 1993

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, SEPTEMBER 29-30, 1993

During its 57th meeting, September 29-30, 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. Discussion on the White Paper

The Committee continued its work on the preparation of a three
part "White Paper" that addresses Committee protocols, major
topical issues for ACNW review, and resource requirements.

The Committee discussions were focused on the major topical
issues for ACNW review, particularly regulations and stan-
dards, facility evaluation, research and technical assistance
programs, risk management, and program architecture. The goal
will be to complete and formally submit the White Paper to
Chairman Selin following completion of the 59th ACNW meeting,
November 15-16, 1993.

As part of this process, the Committee agreed to reexamine the
"memorandum of understanding" between the EDO and ACNW after
the White Paper has been issued to ensure that the two
documents are consistent.

2. Response to a Proposal from Dwight Shelor, DOE

In a letter to the ACNW Chairman, dated July 30, 1993, the
Associate Director for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Program for Systems and Compliance suggested that the DOE and
ACNW jointly plan a more systematic scheduling of interactions
on key high-level radioactive waste (HLW) related topics. The
specific proposal was that DOE provide summary briefings on
key topics to the ACNW approximately 60 days after the DOE has
briefed the NRC staff on the same issue.

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During the review of a draft response, the Committee stated that DOE should not consider the ACNW to be a replacement for the NRC staff for coordination with NRC in the HLW area. However, the Committee reaffirmed that the ACNW is independent and -- if necessary to fulfill its charges from the Commission -- would directly arrange for information exchanges with the DOE. The Committee approved a response that reflected these thoughts and directed Dr. Larkins to transmit this response to DOE.

3. Potential Candidates for Committee Members

The members reviewed and evaluated the qualifications of approximately 20 people who had been suggested as candidates for membership on the Committee beginning in 1994. Among these candidates, the Committee identified those individuals who have expressed genuine interest, attained stature, and who the Committee believes could effectively perform the duties of an ACNW member. Oral interviews were conducted with candidates who appeared to be exceptionally well qualified. On the basis of its evaluations, the Committee selected three candidates for recommendation to the Commission. Dr. Larkins has transmitted the list of nominees to Chairman Selin.

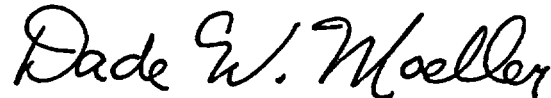
4. Future Committee Activities

- The Committee approved Dr. Moeller's request that he respond affirmatively to an invitation that he present a paper summarizing ACNW views on high-level radioactive waste repository standards at the American Nuclear Society's 1994 International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference, May 22-26, 1994, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The Committee agreed to hold the 58th ACNW meeting at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 27-28, 1993. The 59th ACNW meeting will be held at the Phillips Building in Bethesda, Maryland, on November 15-16, 1993. The 60th ACNW meeting will be held in Nevada, on December 15, 1993, along with a Working Group meeting on Characterization of the Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport Properties on December 14, 1993. A visit to the Yucca Mountain site is scheduled for December 16, 1993.
- The Working Group meetings on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Performance Assessment, previously scheduled for December 14, 1993, and on NRC Staff Capabilities in Performance Assessment and Computer Modeling of High-Level Waste Disposal Facilities, previously scheduled for December 17, 1993, were postponed into early 1994.

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- The Committee agreed to propose a postponement of its scheduled October meeting with the NRC Commissioners.
- The Committee agreed to formally review responses from the EDO to ACNW reports during each meeting (following the procedures that have been established by the ACRS for reconciling EDO responses).

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman