



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

ACNWS-0057

PDR

2/17/94

January 27, 1994

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, DECEMBER 13, 1993

During its 59th meeting, December 13, 1993, held in the Monte Carlo Room at the St. Tropez Hotel, 455 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters as noted below.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. Status of Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project

The Committee heard briefings by and held discussions with representatives of the Yucca Mountain Project Office on the overall status of the Department of Energy Yucca Mountain site characterization activities, including surface-based testing, exploratory studies facility, and issue resolution.

2. State, County, and Other Interests

The Committee heard briefings by and held discussions with representatives of the State of Nevada and Counties, including State Senator Thomas Hickey, Mr. Steven Frishman, and Mr. Les W. Bradshaw.

3. Election of Officers

Dr. Martin J. Steindler was elected Chairman and Dr. Paul W. Pomeroy elected Vice-Chairman for calendar year 1994.

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4. Committee Activities/Future Agenda

- The following tentative meeting dates were selected for 1994:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
61st	February 23-24, 1994
62nd	March 23-24, 1994
63rd	April 20-21, 1994
64th	May 18-19, 1994
65th	June 22-23, 1994
66th	July 20-21, 1994
67th	August 17-18, 1994
68th	September 21-22, 1994
69th	October 19-20, 1994
70th	November 8-9, 1994
71st	December 14-15, 1994

- The following proposed items were selected by the Committee for discussion during the 61st ACNW Meeting, February 23-24, 1994.

Compatibility of NRC and Agreement State Regulations - Discuss with the NRC staff the issues associated with the compatibility of Federal and State regulations governing licensees.

Volcanism (Open) - Hear briefing by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on volcanism issues related to the high-level radioactive waste repository.

Pneumatic Pathways (Open) - Hear briefing by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on their work on pneumatic pathway concerns raised by the State of Nevada.

Working Group Meetings

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Performance Assessment, March 22, 1994, Bethesda, Maryland, (Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will review the NRC's low-level waste performance assessment program, with emphasis on the status of the draft Branch Technical Position and the NRC staff's performance assessment capability. Issues to be examined include on-going and planned activities, milestones and schedules, results of on-going test case analyses,

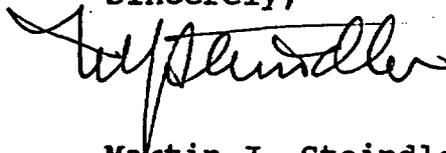
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and the role of NRC in evaluating Agreement State's performance assessment programs.

NRC Staff Capabilities in Performance Assessment and Computer Modeling of High-Level Waste Disposal Facilities, Date to be determined, Bethesda, Maryland (Giorgio Gnugnoli) - The Working Group will discuss progress in the NRC's Iterative Performance Assessment (PA) Program, the NRC staff's completion of an expert elicitation exercise, and progress made in the execution of the NRC's modular computer model. These discussions will be performed periodically, along with the review of NRC written reports, to remain apprised of the degree of in-house and contractor-supported PA capability, the coordination and integration between data analyst and computer modelers, revisions to the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management PA Strategy Plan, and future plans for PA development.

Groundwater Age Dating, June 1994, Bethesda, Maryland (Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will discuss results of groundwater age dating done at the proposed Yucca Mountain site and implications of the results in groundwater travel time and flow paths.

Sincerely,



Martin J. Steindler
Chairman