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

November 22, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

ATTN: James L. Blaha

FROM: John T. Larkins
Executive Director, ACNW

SUBJECT: 58TH ACNW MEETING FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

In order to improve the implementation and follow-up of ACNW recommendations, a summary of "Actions, Agreements, Assignments, and Requests" made during each ACNW meeting is sent to your office.

Attached is a summary of the "Actions, Agreements, Assignments, and Requests" made during the 58th ACNW meeting, October 27-28, 1993, that deal with requests made of the NRC staff or matters that are pertinent to NRC staff activities.

John T. Larkins
Executive Director, ACNW

Attachment:
As stated

- cc: H. L. Thompson, EDO
- K. Schneider, OCM/IS
- S. M. Coplan, OCM/KR
- R. R. Boyle, OCM/FR
- H. K. Whitfield, OCM/GD
- S. J. Chilk, SECY
- E. L. Jordan, AEOD
- R. M. Bernero, NMSS
- T. E. Murley, NRR
- E. S. Beckjord, RES
- G. Sege, RES
- A. L. Eiss, NMSS
- H. Pastis, NRR
- D. M. Crutchfield, NRR
- R. H. Vollmer, OPP

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SUMMARY OF
ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND REQUESTS
58TH ACNW MEETING - OCTOBER 27-28, 1993

During its 58th meeting, October 27-28, 1993, held in the Connecticut Room at the Holiday Inn, 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

Drs. Moeller and Steindler met with Commissioners Rogers and de Planque on October 28th to discuss a draft version of the White Paper.

The Committee continued its work on the preparation of a three part "White Paper" that addresses the Committee operational plan, major nuclear waste program issues for ACNW review, and resource requirements. The members reviewed the revised document and incorporated the comments provided by the Commissioners. The White Paper was transmitted to the Commission on November 10, 1993.

2. Reports on Technical Meetings Attended

The Committee heard reports from ACNW members, staff, and a representative of the U.S. Geological Survey on recent technical meetings that they had attended. The meetings were:

- Hydrology Research Coordination Meeting, Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), San Antonio, Texas, October 5-6, 1993
- NRC/DOE Technical Exchange on Radionuclide Migration in the Unsaturated Zone and Near Field Phenomenon, Los Alamos, New Mexico, October 13-14, 1993
- Surface Based Dry Drilling and the Exploratory Studies Facility Underground Testing Program, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 19-20, 1993

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

3. Briefing on Technical Training Programs by NRC's Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data

The Committee was briefed by representatives of the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) regarding

the NRC technical training program, including staffing and programmatic issues. The AEOD will seek Committee comments on its training program in early 1994.

No Committee action was taken at this meeting.

4. Committee Activities/Future Agenda

- The 59th ACNW meeting will be held at the St. Tropez Conference Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 13, 1993. A Working Group meeting on Characterization of the Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport Properties will be held at the same location on December 14, 1993. A tour of the Yucca Mountain site will be held on December 15, 1993.
- The Committee agreed to hold its 60th meeting on December 20-21, 1993. The Committee will meet with the Commissioners to discuss future Committee activities with the White Paper serving as the basis for the discussion.
- The Committee agreed tentatively to hold the 61st ACNW meeting on January 19-20, 1994, and the 62nd ACNW meeting on February 23-24, 1994. The agenda will be published at a later date. The remaining proposed meeting dates in calendar year 1994 will be determined during the 59th ACNW meeting.
- The appendix summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 59th ACNW Meeting, December 13, 1993, and future Working Group meetings.

APPENDIX. FUTURE SCHEDULE

59th ACNW Committee Meeting December 13, 1993 (Tentative Agenda)

Status of Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project (Open) - Hear a briefing by and hold discussions with representatives of the Yucca Mountain Project Office (YMPO) on the overall status of the Yucca Mountain site characterization activities, including surface-based testing, and the exploratory studies facility.

State, County, Tribal and Other Interests (Open) - Hear a briefing and hold discussions with representatives of the State of Nevada, affected Counties and Tribes on selected topics of mutual interest.

Committee Activities (Open/Closed) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting dates and agenda, and organizational matters, including the election of ACNW officers for CY 1994. Also, the members will discuss matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings.

Working Group Meetings

Characterization of the Unsaturated Zone Flow and Transport Properties, December 14, 1993, Las Vegas, Nevada, (Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will discuss the current state of the knowledge related to processes controlling matrix and fracture-flow in the unsaturated zone at Yucca Mountain including existing approaches to model or bound fracture flow in the unsaturated zone, insights gained from performance assessment activities regarding the sensitivity of infiltration and other parameters and assumptions, on-going site characterization studies, the relationship between performance assessment and site characterization activities, and significant data gaps.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Performance Assessment, Date to be determined, 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, 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 review 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 reviews will be performed

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periodically to determine 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.