



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

ACNWS-0077

PDR

February 9, 1996

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jackson:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - 80TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, DECEMBER 19-21, 1995, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During its 80th meeting, December 19-21, 1995, held at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed several matters and completed the following memorandum and report.

MEMORANDUM AND REPORT:

1. Revision of ACNW Priority Issues (Memorandum to Chairman Jackson, NRC, from Paul W. Pomeroy, Chairman, ACNW, dated December 28, 1995)
2. Comments on SECY-95-201 and the NRC Activities Regarding Low-Level Radioactive Waste (Report to The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman, NRC, from Paul W. Pomeroy, Chairman, ACNW, dated December 29, 1995)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. NAS Report - Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards

The NMSS staff provided a status report on activities related to its current approach to the recommendations provided by the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences report entitled "Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards." The first presentation dealt with the formulation of a staff strategy as to the implications in the report for NRC regulation of a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain. The second presentation provided the status of the technical analyses related to the report recommendations and updated the Committee on the most recent meeting of the joint NRC/EPA task force specifically established for this Congressionally mandated report.

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Conclusion/Action Items

The Committee will prepare comments on the technical activities discussed, and will follow closely all related activities and provide timely comments on formalized technical and scientific positions.

2. Meeting with the Acting Director, Division of Waste Management, NMSS

Ms. Margaret Federline discussed four topics with the Committee: (1) a status report on high-level waste activities, (2) a discussion of survey and statistical methodology for site decommissioning, (3) a status report on issues related to the staff paper on low-level waste alternatives, and (4) a preview of issues to be discussed next month.

The Committee will continue to hold regular briefings with the Director on items of mutual interest.

3. Task Action Plans

The Committee developed a description of its current high-priority activities and approved a letter describing this activity. The Committee will revise these as needed to accommodate Commission guidance and changing needs.

The Committee agreed to participate in a joint Working Group meeting with ACRS in March 1996 on the effects of low-level radiation, spent fuel storage projects, and decommissioning issues.

4. IAEA Presentation

Mr. Giorgio Gnugnoli, Division of Nuclear Safety, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), described the current and proposed radioactive waste safety and technical support organization of the IAEA's current radioactive waste activities with which he has been personally involved. Of particular interest was his exposition as to the potential value of several IAEA databases and how to obtain access to them.

Conclusion/Action Items

The Committee will continue to keep abreast of relevant scientific and technical developments at IAEA that would be applicable to the entire spectrum of waste-related national needs.

5. Meeting with the Director, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

Dr. Carl J. Paperiello discussed the effects of recent budget cuts on his office. He also discussed strategies to maintain essential programs given such budget cuts.

Conclusion/Action Items

The Committee agreed to work with Dr. Paperiello and his staff to utilize NMSS resources effectively and to maintain an ongoing dialogue with Dr. Paperiello.

Proposed Schedule for the 81st ACNW Meeting

The Committee agreed to consider the following during the 81st ACNW Meeting, January 24-26, 1996:

Design Bases Events for Geologic Repository Operations Area - The Committee will hear a presentation by the staff on the proposed resolution of public comments on changes to Part 60 relevant to design basis events for a proposed geologic repository operations area.

Meeting with the Executive Director for Operations - The Committee will meet with the Executive Director for Operations to discuss items of current interest, e.g., status of the Phase 1 rebaselining effort, anticipated impact of resource limitations, staff interactions with the ACNW, and recent Committee reports.

Technical Training Center Developments - The Committee will hear a presentation by representatives of the Technical Training Center (TTC) on TTC programs relevant to the Committee's areas of priority.

Facility Decommissioning - The Committee will hear a presentation by the NRC staff on the current status of a facility listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP). A proposal for permanent on-site disposal, as well as performance assessment considerations are among the relevant issues to be discussed.

Residual Contamination Background Level Determination - The Committee will hear a report from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on its recent field study demonstration project intended to verify the efficacy of the background level determination process proposed in the draft Residual Contamination Level for Decommissioning Rule.

High-Level Waste Source Term - The Committee will hear a presentation by one of its consultants on a high-level waste source term and the value of natural analogs.

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson

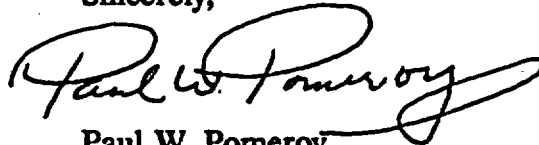
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Meeting with the Director, NRC's Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards - The Director will discuss items of current interest related to Division of Waste Management programs. Among the topics which may be discussed are: a proposed high-level waste issue resolution process, an overview of a recent decommissioning exercise, and current activities related to the use of expert judgment in the licensing process.

LIST OF FOLLOW-UP MATTERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

The Executive Director for Operations will meet with the Committee during its 81st meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 1996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul W. Pomeroy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paul W. Pomeroy
Chairman