

SEP 13 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: George Lear, Assistant Director  
Special Issues Directorate  
Planning Management, Policy Development  
and Analysis Staff

FROM: Robert E. Browning, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Management

SUBJECT: HLWM RESPONSE TO 1ST ACNW MEETING FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Enclosed is the information you requested on EDO Ticket #0003844. This response answers items 2, 3, and 9 of the Actions, Agreements, Assignments and requests from the 1st ACNW Meeting, June 27-29, 1988 as provided to us in the memo from R. Fraley to V. Stello dated July 20, 1988.

If you have any questions concerning this response please contact W. Walker of my staff on x20447.

151

Robert E. Browning, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Management

Enclosure: As stated

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## HLWM ITEMS

This correspondence is in response to the request for specific actions by the NRC staff on the proposed rulemaking for the design basis accident guideline as indicated in items 2 and 3 of your memorandum, 1st Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Meeting Follow-up Items, July 20, 1988. The staff of the Division of High Level Waste Management, has reviewed the list of requests made by the ACNW at its first meeting, June 27-29, 1988 as summarized in your memorandum. As follow-up actions, the Division of High Level Waste Management (DHLWM) staff will address the comparison of the accident design guideline proposed by the Department of Energy (DOE) for a high-level waste repository to the appropriate NRC policies and numerical guidelines and will evaluate the frequency of fuel-handling accidents contained in the Licensee Event Reporting System.

More specifically, when a petition for rulemaking is received from DOE, the staff will review its recommendations in light of NRC policies and guidelines, as recommended. With respect to nuclear fuel-handling accidents, the Committee suggested a need for an events database to collect operating experience and lessons learned. The Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data maintains a data base of licensee event reports (LERs).

These LERs are now being evaluated by the (Staff of the Probabilistic Risk Assessment Branch, PRAB, RES) to determine what significance, if any, they may have for evaluating high-level waste handling operations at a repository. This evaluation will help to prepare the NRC staff to review a DOE petition for rulemaking on accident dose guidelines when such a petition is received. RES will assist the HLWM staff in comparing the risk at a repository to the reactor safety goals. The NRC staff will continue to keep the ACNW informed of progress in this area and will schedule necessary interactions with ACNW as needed.

Finally, we note that many of the Committee's recommendations were directed toward DOE's possible preparation of a petition for rulemaking, rather than to the NRC staff. Accordingly, we have forwarded the letter from Dr. D. Moeller, Chairman, ACNW, to the NRC chairman, "ACNW Comments on the Draft Rulemaking Petition to Establish an Accident Dose Guideline in 10 CFR 60," dated July 1, 1988, from J. Linehan, Acting Chief, Operations Branch, DHLWM, to R. Stein, Acting Associate Director, Office of Systems Integration Regulation, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), DOE, for its use as appropriate.

In addition to the above items ACNW also asked for a response to item 9, in their July 20, 1988 memorandum to the NRC staff. The Committee was interested in how DOE addresses ACNW comments on the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan (CDSCP).

A copy of the transcript containing ACNW comments on the CDSCP from the June 27-29, 1988 ACNW meeting was transmitted in a memorandum dated August 19, 1988 to R. Stein, Acting Director, of OCRWM's Office of Systems Integration Regulation. When we receive DOE's response to our comments on the CDSCP, we will evaluate not only how well they have incorporated our comments but also the ACNW comments.

Lastly the Committee asked the NRC staff to inform them at some future date of the activities concerning scope and scheduling for rulemakings within the Division of High-Level Waste Management. The staff is prepared to brief the Committee on this matter as early as the November 1988 ACNW meeting.