



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

November 7, 1989

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE,
OCTOBER 11-13, 1989

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) held its 14th meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 11-13, 1989. A summary of actions is presented below.

REPORTS, LETTERS AND MEMORANDA

The Committee completed letters and memorandum on the following subjects:

1. Recommendations Dealing with Investigation of Potential Volcanism at the Yucca Mountain High-Level Waste Repository Site (Letter to you dated October 18, 1989).

The Committee was briefed by Dr. Hinze on the 2nd ACNW Working Group Meeting held on October 10, 1989. The Committee discussed the conclusions from the Working Group meeting, particularly the presentation made by Professor Bruce D. Marsh, The Johns Hopkins University, on volcanogenesis.

2. Draft Technical Position on Tectonic Models in the Assessment of Performance of High-Level Radioactive Waste Repositories (Letter to you dated October 18, 1989).

The Committee discussed the draft Technical Position on Tectonic Models with NRC staff representatives and provided a report to you dated October 18, 1989. The Committee expects an opportunity to review the revised version of this proposed Technical Position.

3. Draft Technical Position on the Design of Erosion Protection Covers for Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailings Sites (Letter to you dated October 18, 1989).

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the proposed draft Technical Position.

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4. Pathfinder Atomic Power Plant Dismantlement (Letter to you dated October 18, 1989).

The Committee concluded its discussion on the review of the Dismantlement Plan for the Northern States Power Company Pathfinder Facility. The Committee agreed that further review may be appropriate.

5. Low-Level Waste Performance Assessment Methodology (Letter to Mr. James M. Taylor dated October 18, 1989).

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the proposed LLW Performance Assessment Methodology. A copy of the Committee's letter has been provided to you.

6. Proposed Rulemaking on Anticipated Processes and Events and Unanticipated Processes and Events (Letter to Mr. Robert M. Bernero dated October 19, 1989).

The Committee discussed the proposed rule with representatives of the NRC staff. Mr. R. Browning noted his intent to revise this proposed rule significantly.

OTHER ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUESTS

7. Waste Acceptance Process for Defense and West Valley Wastes

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the process to ensure that the waste forms prepared at Savannah River Laboratory and West Valley Demonstration Project will be satisfactory for storage in the high-level waste repository. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

8. Proposed Rule Related to Consideration of Anticipated Processes and Events (APEs) and Unanticipated Processes and Events (UPEs)

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the rulemaking philosophy and definition of APEs and UPEs. During the discussion, individual Members and Consultants offered comments to the NRC staff regarding scope and clarity of the draft rule.

Mr. Browning agreed to revisit the APEs/UPEs issue, and the Committee agreed to meet with the NRC staff when the next version of the proposed rule is available for review.

9. Proposed Rule for LLW Manifest Information and Reporting

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on LLW manifest information and reporting. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

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10. EPRI and EEI Comments on the HLW Repository

The Committee was briefed by representatives of the Electric Power Research Institute and the Edison Electric Institute on their concerns with the DOE HLW repository program and on their near-term plans. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

11. EPA Standard 40 CFR 191, "Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic, Radioactive Wastes"

The Committee was briefed by a representative of EPA on recent developments in proposed revisions in the environmental radiation protection standards for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, high-level and transuranic radioactive wastes. This briefing was for information only. No Committee action was taken.

12. Working Group Meeting

Since the last report of ACNW activities, a Working Group meeting was held on October 10, 1989 to continue the NRC staff's presentation on the draft Technical Position on Tectonic Models. Volcanogenesis was also discussed.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Appendix A summarizes the tentative agenda that were proposed for future meetings of the Committee.

Sincerely,

Dade W. Moeller

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman