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412/DGALSON/87/03/05

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MAR 06 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert F. Burnett, Director
Division of Safeguards

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

SUBJECT: DWM'S COMMENTS ON THE NRC'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM PLAN FOR
FY 1987

I am transmitting the Division of Waste Management's (DWM's) comments on the NRC's International Program Plan for FY 1987 to you for inclusion in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards' (NMSS's) response to James R. Shea's memorandum of February 18, 1987 to John G. Davis. Please find enclosed an annotated copy of the Program Plan, in which the numerous modifications I would like to see made are presented in detail. The Plan currently reflects a strong bias towards Safeguards and Reactors, and many of the modifications are intended to ensure that DWM's increased involvement in international activities is adequately reflected in the Plan. Conservative estimates of DWM's resource requirements are noted for the various Program Areas. Further information concerning DWM's increased need for resources devoted to international activities has previously been (in November 1986), and will be, sent directly to the Office of International Programs.

For now, I would like to emphasize five points.

- (1) Important international interests of DWM are (a) establishing international technical consensus as to how to approach generic regulatory problems, and (b) gaining international recognition and, where possible, acceptance of U.S. regulatory positions in waste management. Section 2.0 of the Plan should reflect these interests.
- (2) I consider that the international waste management meeting of senior regulatory officials that my staff is arranging is of sufficient importance that it should be included as a separate NRC "goal" under Section 3.3 of the Plan.
- (3) Visits to foreign waste-management facilities and regulatory agencies is an important aspect of ensuring two-way information exchange. This is an ongoing part of DWM's international activities under Goal No. 5 of Section 6.3.
- (4) The Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has two principal Advisory Groups. DWM will be participating regularly and actively in both RWMC and Advisory Group meetings, with the primary aims of increasing information exchange and ensuring that NEA activities are focused in areas that will be of direct benefit to the NRC. Section 7.0 of the Plan should reflect

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these comments. Note also that the proper acronym for the Radioactive Waste Management Committee is "RWMC", not "RWM".

- (5) Finally, modifications have been made to Section 8.0 of the Plan to reflect more accurately the nature of DWM's involvement in activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

For your information, the NRC is currently evaluating methods by which waste-management activities may be supported by the Department of Energy's Nuclear Waste Fund. This development could affect how the Office of International Programs looks at waste-management resource estimates for FY 1988.

If you have any questions on this material, please get in touch with Daniel A. Galson (X74623) of my staff.

Original Signed by
MICHAEL J. BELL

for Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management

Enclosure:
DWM's comments on the NRC's
International Program Plan for FY87

Hand Carried to
Burnett by Galson
3/6/87

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(Record Note: Response to this ticket was coordinated with WMLU)

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SG has lead. FC/WM - Please provide input to SG by 3/6/87. SG due date is 3/11/87.					
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