



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M890105

January 26, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary *MS*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON REGULATORY
RESPONSIBILITIES AND SCHEDULES FOR THE HLW
REPOSITORY PROGRAM, 2:00 P.M., THURSDAY,
JANUARY 5, 1989, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission* was briefed by the staff on NRC's regulatory responsibilities and schedules for reviewing and licensing DOE's high level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The Commission endorsed the staff's proposal to selectively conduct an independent validation of DOE's unsaturated medium model.

Chairman Zech requested the staff to:

1. Take the necessary time to assure high quality technical reviews of DOE's submittals. Technical excellence should take priority over schedule considerations.
2. Continue to keep the Commission apprised of all significant milestones, accomplishments and potential problems.
3. Bring major issues to the Commission's attention as early as possible for timely consideration and action.

Commissioner Curtiss requested the staff to provide the Commission a copy of staff's analysis of DOE's Site Characterization Plan at the same time it is submitted to the ACNW (Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste) for review and comment.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: when ready)

* Commissioner Roberts was not present.

Commissioner Curtiss also emphasized the advantages of resolving, through rulemaking, as many as possible of the items listed in Enclosure 8 ("Technical Positions to Guide DOE's Resolution of Technical Uncertainties") to SECY-88-285. This would focus the adjudicatory litigation on the acceptability of the repository and not on the meaning of a regulation.

cc: Chairman Zech
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Carr
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
OGC
GPA
PDR - Advance
DCS - P1-124