

ACNWS-0001  
PDR 4/19/89



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

July 20, 1988

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE,  
JUNE 27-29, 1988

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste held its 1st meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 27-29, 1988. A summary of actions is presented below:

ACNW REPORTS, LETTERS AND MEMORANDA

The Committee prepared a report on the Proposed Rule on the Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites. (Letter to Chairman Zech, dated July 1, 1988)

The Committee prepared Comments on the Rulemaking Petition to Establish an Accident Dose Guideline in 10 CFR Part 60. (Letter to Chairman Zech, dated July 1, 1988)

Reports on the subjects noted above have been sent to you.

OTHER ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUESTS

The Committee was briefed by the DOE Staff on the proposed rulemaking on the setting of a design basis accident limit for the high-level waste repository. During the discussion, the Committee suggested a need for an events database to collect operating experience and lessons learned on a range of accidents, including fuel handling accidents. The NRC Staff will provide information that has been obtained from the Licensee Event Reporting System. The DOE Staff will provide information that has been obtained from the experience gained at DOE facilities. The Committee also noted that at present the definition of the accident dose area appears too vague and not translated into operational terms. The Committee would like to be kept informed on this subject.

The Committee was briefed by the NRR Staff on the licensing review procedures used in low-level waste handling processes. The briefing included NRR regulatory activities on spent fuel storage/rod consolidation and low-level radioactive waste, and recent progress in dry spent fuel storage licensing. The Committee was unclear about the specific roles of NRR and NMSS in the assessment of LLW waste form production processes and assessment of adherence to requirements, and expressed its

40455

8904250282 880720  
PDR ADVCM NACNUCLE  
S-0001 PDC

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By EMB *RS01* 40

intent to revisit this topic at a meeting in the near future. Due to insufficient time, the presentation on cement waste form solidification was deferred to the September ACNW meeting.

The Committee was briefed by the NRC Staff and Consultants on high integrity container (HIC) regulatory issues and high density polyethylene HICs. The Committee requested information on the actual impacted dose that the high density polyethylene HICs will be subject to over a 300-year period. The Committee also requested a copy of the NRC acceptance criteria, if they exist, for the polyethylene HICs. The Committee will continue briefings on these subjects and others, including the issue of cement waste form solidification, during the September ACNW meeting.

The Committee was briefed by the NRC Staff on the proposed rule changes to 10 CFR Part 72.

The Committee was briefed by the DOE Staff and Consultants on the organization of the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan (CDSCP), the SCP completion process, and their initial responses to the comments provided by the ACRS Subcommittee on Waste Management. The DOE Staff agreed to send a copy of the State of Nevada's comments on the CDSCP to ACNW for information consideration, which is planned for the 2nd ACNW Meeting, July 21-22, 1988. The ACRS members were satisfied with this resolution of their comments.

The Committee was briefed by the DOE Staff and Consultants on the alternate conceptual models of the hydrologic regime at the Yucca Mountain site, including performance assessment modeling, thermal and tectonic interactions, and conceptual modeling for the total system.

The Committee discussed with the NMSS Staff the comments of the ACRS Subcommittee on Waste Management on the CDSCP. The NMSS Staff agreed to send a letter stating that they and the DOE Staff have satisfactorily responded to these comments. The NMSS Staff also agreed to discuss the scope and scheduling of future rulemaking on the high-level waste management program during a future ACNW meeting.

The Committee discussed with the NMSS Staff the development of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center, at the Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Tex. The Committee was invited to visit the Center, but declined at this time because of heavy scheduling.

The Committee met with the Commission to discuss future topics for ACNW and other issues of mutual concern. The Committee and Commission agreed to meet together on a quarterly basis. The Commission reaffirmed its interest in appointing a fourth ACNW Member. [The Committee noted later the desirability for the fourth Member to be an earth scientist.] The

Commission also reaffirmed its interest in making the ACNW a statutory committee. OGC has the lead on this with ACNW Staff participation.

The Committee agreed to establish procedures to facilitate the closure of outstanding issues after each ACNW meeting. The Committee agreed that:

- a. A follow-up memorandum will be sent to the EDO that includes a summary of the actions, agreements, assignments and requests derived from the meeting.
- b. It would like a response memorandum to be sent to the ACNW from the EDO describing actions taken by the NRC Staff.
- c. If the Committee believes that certain issues have not been satisfactorily resolved, the NRC Staff will be invited to discuss the issues with the ACNW. Portions of ACNW meetings will be set aside for these discussions.
- d. A summary letter will be sent to the Commission that includes a summary of the actions, agreements, assignments and requests from the previous meeting and a summary of unresolved outstanding issues with ACNW comments.

The Committee agreed to continue its review of the Below Regulatory Concern (BRC) issue with the goal of developing a position which could be incorporated in an NRC policy statement before the International Meeting on BRC is held in Washington, D.C. in October 1988. The Committee agreed to send a representative to the International Meeting on BRC.

Dr. Moeller, Chairman, expressed interest in receiving information on incineration processes for volume reduction in low-level waste management.

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The following items have been proposed for consideration during the ACNW meeting on July 21-22, 1988:

Below Regulatory Concern - The NRC Staff will present their proposed policy statement to the ACNW.

Dry Cask Storage Study - The DOE Staff will brief the ACNW on their Dry Cask Storage Study. This study is required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 to be submitted to Congress in October 1988.

Rulemaking on Anticipated and Unanticipated Events - The NRC Staff will discuss the proposed rulemaking on this topic.

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.

4

July 20, 1988

Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses - The NRC Staff and representatives from The Center will brief the ACNW on the status of this program.

Environmental Monitoring of Low-Level Waste Facilities - The NRC Staff will discuss the NRC Draft Technical Position on this topic.

EPA Standards for HLW Geologic Repository - The EPA will provide a briefing on the status of this topic.

Briefing on Barnwell/Savannah River/Chem-Nuclear and LN Technolitics - The NRC Staff and, if possible, representatives of the above organizations and the State of South Carolina will brief the members of the ACNW to prepare them for their proposed visit to these facilities in early August. The Office of State Programs will also describe the Agreement States program in general and their recent interaction with the State of South Carolina in particular.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller  
Chairman