

APR 3 1989

NOTE TO: Willard B. Brown, Director
Special Issues Group

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

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW)
ISSUES FROM THE JANUARY 1989 MEETINGS

The purpose of this note is to provide the Division of High Level Waste Management's (HLWM's) responses to the ACNW issues identified at the January 1989 meetings. In its letter to the Chairman dated January 25, 1989, the ACNW stated that it believes that its efforts would be better directed by focusing its reviews in two areas. The first was evaluating the review plans that have been developed by the staff to guide it in its review of various parts of the HLWM program. And, the second covered several topics including: 1) an evaluation of the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) responses to the five objections raised by the staff in its review of the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan; 2) additional areas of disagreement resulting from DOE's responses to the Point Papers; 3) concerns raised by the State of Nevada; and 4) areas of special interest to the ACNW. In addition, the ACNW stated that it would review selected rules, Technical Positions (TPs), and Regulatory Guides and relevant research, including programs of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). These issues have been discussed between the staff and ACNW, and the staff has proposed a schedule for interactions with the ACNW through the end of FY 89 that includes: (1) status updates of the staff's review of the Site Characterization Plan, including the topics identified by the ACNW; (2) briefings on several TPs; (3) briefings on the High-Level Waste Management Research Program and Strategy Plan; and (4) a review of CNWRA repository-related technical work.

In its January 26, 1989 letter to the Chairman covering DOE's presentation to the ACNW on the West Valley Demonstration Project, the ACNW identified one item that is the responsibility of HLWM. This dealt with input to DOE from the HLWM staff on the need for DOE to identify the acceptance criteria for the vitrified high-level waste that will be placed in the repository. The HLWM staff's position is that DOE must ensure that the waste forms provided by any of the waste producers are acceptable for disposal in the repository. The Waste Acceptance Process (WAP) was developed by DOE to ensure the acceptability of disposing of the vitrified waste in the repository.

During past technical interactions on the WAP, the HLWM staff and DOE have identified and agreed upon the need for acceptance criteria for the vitrified high-level waste. At the latest meeting on September 29-30, 1988, the staff also identified the need for DOE to integrate the development of these criteria into the overall performance of the repository and the associated

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performance allocation process. In addition, the staff identified the need for DOE to provide an integrated schedule showing how the WAP activities fit into the overall repository program. As a first step, DOE has committed to provide the integrated schedule within the next month.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Joe Holonich of my staff at extension 23403. This closes the HLWM response to EDO ticket 0004257.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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

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