



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

QCNEWS-0007

PDR
4/19/89

March 13, 1989

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

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE,
FEBRUARY 21-23, 1989

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste held its 7th meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, on February 21-23, 1989. A summary of actions is presented below.

REPORTS, LETTERS AND MEMORANDA

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the proposed final rule on the disposal of Greater-Than-Class-C radioactive waste, and public comments on the rule. A report on the Final Rulemaking on 10 CFR Part 61 Relative to Disposal of "Greater-Than-Class-C" Low-Level Radioactive Wastes was sent to you on February 24, 1989.

ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUESTS

Status of the NRC Review of the Site Characterization Plan (SCP)

The Committee was briefed by the NRC staff on the SCP review plan and schedule, SCP acceptance review, NRC concerns on the Consultation Draft Site Characterization Plan (CDSCP), the design acceptability analysis for the ESF, and was provided an overview of other high-level waste plans. The NRC staff discussed the purpose and content of the SCP Review Plan; summarized the SCP review activities, schedule, and status; and described the draft study plan review plan, performance assessment review strategy, and the QA review plan.

DOE Presentation on the SCP

The Committee was briefed by the representatives of DOE and their contractors on the SCP, including DOE's response to NRC's five major objections (alternative conceptual models, ESF penetration of the Calico Hills unit, potential ESF interference with investigations, ESF location, and quality assurance), and six other significant issues raised by NRC's comments in its point papers, i.e. the performance allocation, the representativeness and integration of site characterization data, ground water travel time, performance confirmation, substantially complete containment, and the treatment of human interference in the construction of the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF). An overview of the SCP study plans and a discussion of quality assurance was cancelled because of insufficient time.

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State of Nevada Technical Comments on the CDSCP

The Committee was briefed by representatives of the state of Nevada and their contractors on their technical concerns on the Yucca Mountain site, including tectonics, active faulting, unsaturated zone hydrology, uncertainty modeling and performance assessment, geochemistry, volcanic risk, climate change, and mineral resource potential.

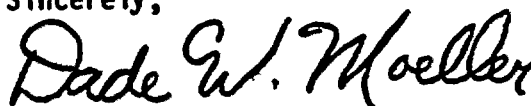
Petitions for Disposal of Radioactive Waste Streams Below Regulatory Concern

The Committee discussed whether it wishes to participate in the expedited handling by the NRC staff of petitions for the disposal of radioactive waste streams below regulatory concern. The Committee agreed to discuss the procedures by which such requests are considered/processed. This matter is scheduled for the April ACNW meeting.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Committee agreed to the tentative future agenda as shown in Appendix A.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

APPENDIX A

FUTURE AGENDA

8th ACNW Meeting on March 23, 1989

DOE discussion of Site Characterization Study Plans (Open)

Discussion lead by ACNW Consultants M. Carter, K. Krauskopf and J. Moody on ESF Study Plan for study 8.3.1.2.2.2 regarding Water Movement Tests (Open)

Administrative Session to include:

- Future Schedules (Open)
- Membership (Closed)
- ACNW discussion of a possible report related to the repository development schedule, implementation of Study Plans and resolution of critical issues, etc. (Open)
- ACNW planning its review schedule for the SCP/SCA including additional meeting dates, consultants and topics (Open)
- Possible discussion of ACNW response to letters to the Commission concerning the ACNW position on the elimination of Section 20.205 from the proposed revision to 10 CFR Part 20 (Open)

9th ACNW Meeting on April 26-28, 1989 (tentative)

Meeting with the Commission (Open) - The Committee will meet with the Commission to discuss a variety of topics, such as:

- Meeting with DOE/NRC/state of Nevada on CDSCP and SCP Review Plan
- West Valley Demonstration Project
- Division of High-Level Waste Management FY89 Program
- Deletion of Sect. 20.205 from the proposed revision of 10 CFR Part 20
- Greater-Than-Class-C radioactive waste
- Other items identified by the Commission

Mixed Waste (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the issues involved in the disposal of wastes that contain both hazardous and radioactive constituents.

Post Closure Seals (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the technical position on post closure seals in unsaturated media.

Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the latest activities at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses.

Licensing Support System (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the development of the Licensing Support System for the High-Level Waste Repository.

Update on the Site Characterization Plan (Open) - The Committee will be briefed on the status of the NRC review of the SCP.

Petitions for Disposal of Radioactive Waste Streams Below Regulatory Concern (Open) - The Committee will discuss the procedures and schedule proposed by the NRC staff for the expeditious handling of petitions.

Waste Confidence Rulemaking (Open) - The Committee will meet with the NRC staff to discuss the waste confidence rulemaking.

Committee Activities (Open/Closed) - The Committee will discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting agenda, and organizational matters, as appropriate.