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002.14 (140)



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

SEP 25 1991

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Raymond F. Fraley, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

FROM: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director for
Nuclear Material Safety, Safeguards,
and Operations Support

SUBJECT: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE'S OBSERVATIONS
ON THE CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES

This is in response to Dade W. Moeller's July 31, 1991, memorandum to Eric S. Beckjord and Robert M. Bernero, in which he provided the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW's) observations on its June 26 - 28, 1991, visit to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). In that memorandum, the ACNW made several general observations on its visit, as well as six specific comments on the technical aspects of the CNWRA programs. These comments dealt with:

- (1) the assignment of priorities;
- (2) performance assessment and code validation;
- (3) Systematic Regulatory Analysis;
- (4) timeliness of studies and results;
- (5) coordination between CNWRA technical assistance and research work; and
- (6) funding for laboratory equipment and computer support.

Information on Items (1), (3), and (5) was provided at the August 28, 1991, briefing of the ACNW by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) staff. In addition, these items are also discussed in the NMSS paper, "Development and Implementation of the Division of High-Level Waste Management Proactive Program," which was given to the Committee at the August 28, 1991, briefing. For your convenience, I have provided a copy of the paper as Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 contains the staff's responses to the specific comments. The specific ACNW comment is provided first, and the NRC response to the specific comment then follows.

I trust that this reply responds to the Committee's concerns.

Hugh L. Thompson Jr.
Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director for
Nuclear Material Safety, Safeguards,
and Operations Support

Enclosures: As stated

cc: S. Chilk, SECY
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The Chairman
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