

001.12 116

RECEIVED
MAY 12 11 05 AM '93

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20418

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 5, 1993

Ms. Margaret Federline
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
High Level Waste Management Division
1 White Flint N Bldg, 11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

In keeping with the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has embarked on a process aimed at providing findings and recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the technical bases of public health and safety standards for a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The NAS project will be conducted by the Committee on Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards. The chairman of the committee is Robert W. Fri, President of Resources for the Future. The list of current members of the committee is enclosed.

A statement of the committee's charge, drawn from the Act and its legislative history, is also enclosed. The committee's report is due by the end of calendar year 1994.

The committee's first meeting will be held on May 27-29, 1993, in Las Vegas at the Alexis Park Resort Hotel, 375 East Harmon Avenue, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on the 27th. The meeting will be open to the public. While a detailed agenda is not yet available, most of the sessions on the 27th and 28th will be devoted to discussions of the committee's task with federal and state officials and representatives of industrial and environmental groups. Time will also be reserved on the afternoon of the 28th for observers in the general audience to present their views to the committee. The central objective of this meeting is to obtain a broad spectrum of views on interpreting the committee's charge, factors to take into account, and issues to address.

If you plan to attend the meeting and particularly if you want to make an oral presentation to the committee, please let us know in advance so that we can provide sufficient space for everyone who wishes to attend. Write to Ms. Lisa Clendening; Board on Radioactive Waste Management; National Academy of Sciences; 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW; Washington, DC 20418. The telephone number for facsimile transmissions is (202) 334-3077. Persons who indicate that they plan to attend will receive copies of the detailed agenda as soon as it is made final.

Sincerely,

Myron F. Uman
Assistant Executive Officer
Special Projects

Enclosures

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

BOARD ON
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Office Location:
Milton Harris Building
Room 456
2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. 20007

Committee on Technical Bases for
Yucca Mountain Standards

Chairman

Robert W. Fri, Resources for the Future

Engineering

Sol Burstein (NAE), Wisconsin Electric Power (ret.)
Charles Fairhurst, University of Minnesota

Environmental Sciences

Robert J. Budnitz, Future Resources Associates
Thomas H. Pigford, University of California, Berkeley
Gilbert F. White (NAS), Institute for Behavioral Sciences (emer.)

Geology

Jean M. Bahr, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Fred M. Phillips, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Health

Melvin W. Carter, Georgia Institute of Technology
Arthur C. Upton (NAS, IOM), New York University (ret.)

Risk Assessment

Chris G. Whipple, ICF Kaiser Engineers
Susan D. Wiltshire, JK Research Associates

Risk Management

John F. Ahearn, Society of the Sigma Xi
R. Darryl Banks, World Resources Institute
Charles McCombie, (Swiss) National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste

Staff

Myron F. Uman, Project Leader
Raymond Wassel, Project Officer
Lisa Clendening, Project Administrator

April 26, 1983

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

BOARD ON
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Office Location:
 Milton Harris Building
 Room 456
 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., 20007

Charge to the Committee on Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-486) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate standards for protection of the public from releases of radioactive materials at a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The Act also requests the National Academy of Sciences to provide findings and recommendations to EPA in this regard. In accordance with Section 801(a)(2) of the Act, the committee shall conduct a study to provide findings and recommendations on the technical bases for "reasonable standards for protection of the public health and safety, including--

- (A) whether a health-based standard based upon doses to individual members of the public from releases to the accessible environment ... will provide a reasonable standard for protection of the health and safety of the general public:
- (B) whether it is reasonable to assume that a system for post-closure oversight of the repository can be developed, based upon active institutional controls, that will prevent an unreasonable risk of breaching the repository's engineered or geologic barriers or increasing the exposure of individual members of the public to radiation beyond allowable limits; and
- (C) whether it is possible to make scientifically supportable predictions of the probability that the repository's engineered or geologic barriers will be breached as a result of human intrusion over a period of 10,000 years."

The legislative history of this provision indicates that the listing of these specific questions is not intended to preclude the committee from addressing additional questions or issues related to appropriate standards for radiation protection at Yucca Mountain. On the question of human intrusion, for example, the committee might also address issues related to predictions of the probability of natural events that could compromise a repository. On the question of a health standard based on dose to individual members of the public, the committee might also address the collective dose to the general population that could result from the adoption of such an approach.

In making its findings and recommendations, the committee shall provide expert scientific guidance on the issues involved in establishing standards, but the authority and responsibility to establish the standards remains with the EPA Administrator in accordance with law.

4/28/93

Reports & EVENTS

National Academy of Sciences
National Academy of Engineering
Institute of Medicine
National Research Council

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20418

A GUIDE FOR THE NEWS MEDIA

Date: May 4, 1993

Contacts: Craig Hicks, Media Relations Associate
Richard Julian, Media Relations Assistant
(202) 334-2138

MEDIA ADVISORY

COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE TECHNICAL BASES OF EPA STANDARDS FOR PROPOSED RADIOACTIVE WASTE SITE

In the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Congress asked the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the technical bases of EPA's public health and safety standards for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev. The Academy's National Research Council will launch an 18-month study of these issues at a news conference on Thursday, May 27, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. PDT in the Monte Carlo 3 room of the St. Tropez hotel, 4503 Paradise Road, Las Vegas.

On hand to discuss the background, purpose and procedures of the study will be committee chair Robert W. Fri, president and senior fellow, Resources for the Future; and staff project leader Myron F. Uman of the National Research Council. Both will be available for interviews following the presentation.

The committee's first meeting will be held following the news conference. The meeting is open to the public. It will begin at 2 p.m. PDT Thursday, May 27, and end on Saturday, May 29, in the Marketplace room of the Alexis Park hotel, 375 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas. Most of this meeting will be devoted to discussions of the committee's task with federal and state government officials and representatives of environmental and industry groups. Time will be reserved for observers in the audience to present their views to the committee.

Reporters can obtain copies of the meeting's agenda at the Las Vegas news conference or from the Office of News and Public Information, (202) 334-2138.

The study is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A committee roster is overleaf.

#

ch: ym

This listing is prepared by the Office of News and Public Information. It may not include some activities planned on short notice. Details are subject to change and should be checked directly with the contact person for each event.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20418

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 30, 1993

Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Bernero

The committee of the National Research Council that is charged with providing the Environmental Protection Agency with findings and recommendations on the technical bases of standards at Yucca Mountain wishes to establish and maintain strong technical liaison with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.


To this end, I am writing to request that you assign a member of your staff the formal responsibilities of liaison representative to our newly formed Committee on Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards. Under the Council's policies, a liaison representative attends and participates in committee meetings, except executive sessions, to assure that the committee has access to all of the pertinent technical information that the agency possesses. In addition, the liaison representative helps to assure that the agency has access to the technical information available to the committee from other sources.

At your suggestion, I have discussed our interest in having a designated liaison representative from the U.S. NRC with Margaret Federline of your staff. Based on that conversation and her previous experience with National Research Council committees, I am confident that she is fully aware of the responsibilities and obligations of liaison representation.

I hope that you will agree that the sustained participation of a designated technical liaison representative of the U.S. NRC will substantially aid the committee in this challenging endeavor. We are also asking the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Nevada State Nuclear Waste Projects Office each to designate an appropriate technical liaison representative.

If you have any questions about this request or any other aspect of the study, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 334-1659.

Sincerely,


Myron F. Uman
Assistant Executive Officer
Special Projects

4/30/93
WM-1
MFO

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IS THE PRINCIPAL OPERATING AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

9305040305-930430
PDR WASTE
WM-1

TO SERVE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

PDR