



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

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OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER

October 17, 1991

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MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Kenneth C. Rogers

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS -- BRIEFING ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION IN THE HIGH LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM [REF M910914A] -- REFERENCE EDO MEMORANDUM OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1991 AND SECY-91-260

I am very pleased with the staff's efforts to consider the option of expanded use of the CNWRA. I concur with the staff's analysis and approve a phased approach to pursuing this option.

The pitfalls and problems noted by the staff in allowing the Center to accept other work, particularly from entities other than NRC, must be carefully avoided. However, the advantages to allowing the Center to fully and constantly exercise its special competencies can further strengthen those competencies and result in even greater assurance of excellence in the NRC HLW work performed at the Center. In addition, by expanding its potential use, NRC can take advantage of the available expertise and independence of the Center to address the need for assistance in other program areas, such as in the low level waste program.

I also support the staff's proposal to avoid either reprogramming of resources within the HLW program or pursuing a request for supplemental funds from OMB and Congress at this time.

I do continue to be concerned about the shortfall of Center professional staffing in the geological areas. Together hydrology/climatology, risk mechanics/mining, and structural/tectonics account for five of the seven unfilled professional slots in FY 92. Risk mechanics/mining is only at roughly half strength. Therefore, I urge staff to examine these

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areas of professional staffing and to work with the Center to find acceptable ways of reducing these staffing shortfalls, possibly through expansion of Center activities.

*Kenneth C. Rogers*

Kenneth C. Rogers  
Commissioner

cc: The Chairman  
Commissioner Curtiss ✓  
Commissioner Remick  
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