

August 16, 2005

Dr. Michael T. Ryan, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
LETTER DATED JULY 1, 2005, ON "COMMENTS ON ICRP FOUNDATION
DOCUMENTS - A FOLLOWUP TO THE ACNW'S NOVEMBER 3, 2004
COMMENTS"

I am responding to your letter of July 1, 2005, providing the views of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) on the most recent draft foundation documents of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff holds similar views on the draft foundation documents and we prepared comments on each of these documents and provided them to the Commission in SECY-05-0117. These comments were submitted to the ICRP on July 11, 2005. The staff's comments include the points raised in your letter to the Commission. The BEIR VII report was released to the public in June, 2005. We have encouraged the ICRP to consider this report as it revises the foundation documents and associated recommendations.

We appreciate the ACNW's examination of this issue, and look forward to continuing to interact with you as the ICRP continues the process to revise and update its recommendations. The ICRP has indicated that it plans to continue the public consultation process with another draft of the recommendations in spring 2006. The NRC staff will then prepare an analysis, with recommendations for NRC's regulatory framework. This analysis will include the topics recommended in your letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

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