

August 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Ryan ACNW, Chairman
Allen Croff ACNW, Vice Chairman

FROM: Ruth Weiner ACNW, Member */RA/*

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF THE ACNW TEAM REPORT FROM THE APRIL
13-15, 2005 VISIT TO THE CENTER FOR THE REGULATORY
ANALYSIS OF NUCLEAR WASTE

As you know, three members of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) and two ACNW consultants visited the Center for the Regulatory Analysis of Nuclear Waste (CNWRA) in San Antonio, Texas on April 13-15, 2005 and conducted a focused discussion of topics that had been selected by the ACNW. The ACNW team consisted of ACNW members Ruth Weiner, James Clarke, and William Hinze, ACNW Consultants Bruce Marsh and Paul Shewmon, and Richard Savio, Sharon Steele, and Jenny Gallo of the ACNW/ACRS Staff. NRC/NMSS staff present at the CNWRA included Jack Guttman, John Trapp, and Allen Fetter. Additional NRC/NMSS and ACNW staff at NRC Headquarters participated by video teleconferencing.

The NMSS and the CNWRA staffs were provided with a number of specific questions relating to the topics to be discussed prior to the visit and were provided with opportunities to discuss these questions with the cognizant ACNW members prior to the visit. The questions were discussed with the ACNW prior to the ACNW members' visit to the CNWRA. The information provided to the ACNW in a February 24, 2005 briefing by members of the CNWRA staff was used in developing these questions. The purpose of the ACNW members' and consultants' visit was to gather information which would be later discussed by the ACNW and used to provide advice to the NRC Commission.

The presentations to the ACNW team were helpful, and generally responsive to the ACNW's questions. Although responses to the questions related to igneous activity were a marked improvement in depth and breadth over previous presentations to the Committee, some concerns still remain. The attached report contains a summary of what the ACNW team learned. Appendixes 1 and 2 contain a detailed summary of the CNWRA and NMSS staff responses to the questions provided prior to the April 13-15, 2005 visit (Appendix 1) and a discussion of issues relevant to the interaction of magma with the waste package (Appendix 2).

Attachments as stated:

cc w/atts: W. Hinze
J. Clarke
B. Marsh
P. Shewmon
J. Larkins

C. Reamer