

Quick Look Report

Travel Dates: January 14-21, 2006

Location: Paris, France

Organization/Committee:

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) Core Group and OECD/NEA Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Safety Criteria

Desired Outcome:

Represent the U.S. and the NRC as 1) a member of the core group at a meeting to plan future FSC activities and 2) a member of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Safety Criteria, to deliberate on issues of intergenerational equity and regulatory responsibilities for setting health and safety criteria for the far future.

Results Achieved:

The desired results were achieved. Both meetings, along with ancillary discussions during breaks, strengthened existing networks for sharing experiences, especially with respect to engaging stakeholders and with implementing regulatory criteria for long-term safety.

Summary of Trip:

Between January 16 and January 20, 2006, I attended two successive OECD/NEA meetings in Paris, France. On January 16-17, 2006, I participated in a meeting of the OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) core group. I have represented the U.S. on the FSC core group since FSC's inception in August of 2000. Other member states represented on this core group include Canada, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom. At this meeting, the core group agreed on an agenda and discussed plans for the 2006 annual FSC meeting, to be held June 7-9, 2006. It was decided that the annual meeting will include two topical sessions, one on the role of organizational change in fostering stakeholder confidence, and one on the link between radioactive waste management organizations, the Media, and stakeholder confidence. Topical sessions on the influence of the media on stakeholder confidence have become regular features of FSC plenary meetings. Planning continued as well for the FSC National Workshop in Hungary now scheduled for November 2006. It was agreed that the theme for this workshop will be "Benefits and value added to local communities by waste management facilities."

On January 18-20, 2006, I took part in the second meeting of the ad hoc task group on long-term safety criteria. The Regulator's Forum of the NEA's Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) set up this task group to review and compare the long-term protection criteria for long-lived radioactive waste in various countries. Representatives from nine countries, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated. Staff from both NRC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) represented the U.S.. The purpose of the meeting was to review long-term safety criteria issues to be presented at meetings of the RWMC's Regulator's Forum and the RWMC, both in March. The issues discussed included: (1) what fairness to future

generations demands of current regulators; (2) challenges in communicating criteria for long-term safety; and (3) whether ethical and regulatory duties lessen over very long time frames. Presentations included an overview of the proposed EPA standards for Yucca Mountain provided by the representative from EPA. Invited speakers included ethicists from Sweden, the United Kingdom and Belgium, each addressing different obligations and interpretations of intergenerational equity, sustainability and environmental justice. Considerable time was spent reviewing the current draft of a discussion paper on Long-term Safety Criteria, and discussing plans for a topical meeting, both of which will be presented to the RWMC in March.

Next Steps:

The June 7-9, 2006 Annual Meeting of the FSC will be carried out consistent with the agenda developed by the core group at this meeting. Planning for the November National FSC Workshop in Hungary will continue at the next core group meeting just prior to the annual meeting. The Long-term Safety Criteria discussion paper and plans for an international topical meeting on long-term safety criteria will be presented to the RWMC Regulator's Forum in March, 2006.

Policy Issues:

No new policy issues for NRC were identified. No formal trip report will be prepared.

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