

July 28, 2006

Mr. James A. Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management (EM-1)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Rispoli:

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission would like to conduct an information visit to the Hanford site during the three day period of October 17 through 19, 2006. A proposed agenda for the meeting is enclosed. Please note that ACNW Vice Chairman Allen G. Croff has already discussed this visit and the proposed agenda with Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE).

The purpose of this visit is to gain insights into DOE site and R&D activities related to remediation of the waste tanks, as well as its reprocessing and decommissioning efforts. This information will assist the Committee in providing advice to the Commission in the future.

We would appreciate having a confirmation of DOE's approval and support for the site visit. We also welcome any comments you might have on the proposed agenda.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John T. Larkins  
Executive Director  
ACRS/ACNW

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: Roy J. Schepens, Manager, Office of River Protection  
Keith A. Klein, Manager, Richland Operations Office  
Mark A. Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration (EM-20)  
A. Croff, Vice Chairman, ACNW

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DATE	07/28/06		07/28/06		07/28/06		07/28/06			

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**PROPOSED AGENDA**

**HANFORD SITE VISIT OF USNRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE  
WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, 2006**

Date	Activity	Comments
October 16 (Monday)	Travel to Richland	
October 17 (Tuesday)	Overview of site, tank remediation, WTP, decommissioning	About an hour. Sole purpose is to provide framework for tours. Questions deferred to tour or briefings on following days.
	<p>Tour</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tank farm and tank cold-test facility</li> <li>2. WTP</li> <li>3. Decommissioning sites: reactors being cocooned, fuel cycle facility (reprocessing, refab, nuclear material proc)</li> <li>4. Bulk vitrification demo</li> <li>5. Reprocessing plant?</li> <li>6. WESF (Cs/Sr storage)</li> <li>7. B Reactor (historical site)?</li> </ol>	<p>No order implied. Question marks indicate "as time permits".</p> <p><u>Explanations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports Commission directive to remain knowledgeable about waste determinations and technology related thereto.</li> <li>2. See above.</li> <li>3. Relates to Commission directive to obtain 'lessons learned' concerning D&amp;D.</li> <li>4. Relates to Commission directive to remain knowledgeable about technology concerning waste determinations.</li> <li>5. Relates to Commission directive to remain knowledgeable concerning fuel recycle technology. Goal is to see the innards of a reprocessing plant (U plant with a 'bubble'?) without excessive time consumption.</li> <li>6. Relates to Commission directive to remain knowledgeable about technology concerning wastes that may be subject to waste determinations.</li> <li>7. Provides historical perspective on 'how we got here'.</li> </ol>

<p><b>October 18 (Wednesday)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Tank cleanup program</b></p> <p><b>2. Tank cleanup R&amp;D program</b></p>	<p><b>No preference on order of Wednesday and Thursday sessions</b></p> <p><b>1. About 6 hrs. Address characterization, retrieval, tank closure, supplemental LAW immobilization, i.e., all except details of WTP. Address WTP as a "black box" with inputs and outputs.</b></p> <p><b>2. About 2 hrs. Address R&amp;D/S&amp;T/TD related to tank cleanup program. Sidebar discussions on this presentation occurred with Martin Letourneau during to the May 2006 ACNW mtg.</b></p>
<p><b>October 19 (Thursday)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Decommissioning Experience</b></p> <p><b>2. WTP</b></p>	<p><b>1. About half day. Address fuel cycle facilities (reprocessing, nuclear material handling) and reactors. Primary interest is what design features facilitated D&amp;D and what design features need to be changed.</b></p> <p><b>2. About half day. Need basic introduction into flowsheet and technical/safety issues.</b></p>
<p><b>October 20 (Friday)</b></p>	<p><b>Return Travel</b></p>	