

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M061214C

January 16, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Frank P. Gillespie, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary **/RA/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - MEETING WITH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, 9:30 A.M., THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2006, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) on its accomplishments over the past year, action plan, and future activities and on some specific areas of focus including low-level radioactive waste, igneous activity at Yucca Mountain, waste disposal technology and the NRC standard review plan for waste determinations, forthcoming white paper on decommissioning, and NRC waste safety and technical assistance programs.

The Committee should work with the staff to consider and provide advice on what NRC can do to assist in providing greater disposal options for low-level radioactive waste, e.g. use of appropriate Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C hazardous waste facilities.

The Committee should continue to follow closely the International Commission on Radiological Protection's (ICRP's) recommendations and issues relating to the use of collective dose as a mechanism of measuring risks associated with low dose exposure to large populations and cancer risk questions and report back to the Commission. The Committee should also provide advice to the Commission on how the Commission can become more engaged on the ICRP recommendations internationally.

The Committee should review and provide advice to the Commission on the forthcoming National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP) study on the meta-exposure of the U.S. population from radon, medical procedures, and other major sources of radiation in the United States.

The Committee should provide advice to the Commission on what more the NRC should do to better inform the public about low-level waste and low dose radiation exposure.

The Committee should advise the Commission on the potential resolution of issues associated with in-situ leach mining and resulting groundwater contamination. These activities should be appropriately coordinated with the staff so they are not in conflict with ongoing efforts of the staff to resolve this issue.

The Committee should work with the staff to develop and provide recommendations to the Commission on preventing legacy sites and large decommissioning problems, including providing incentives that could be used by licensees to reduce the costs of decommissioning.

The Committee should work with the staff and appropriate utility representatives to determine how the utilities have considered reducing low-level waste streams and waste minimization for new nuclear power plant projects.

The Committee should continue to review its charter and provide recommendations to the Commission on how it may broaden its scope of work in the materials area. The Committee's recommendations should include a summary of the associated budget impacts for the Committee and the program offices.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
EDO
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR