



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

January 25, 1989

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF ACNW CONCERNING HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

During its sixth meeting, January 23-24, 1989, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) met with members of the NRC staff to review the activities of the Division of High-Level Waste Management (DHLWM). Emphasized in the discussions was the work of the Division with respect to the proposed High-Level Waste (HLW) Repository at Yucca Mountain and the role of the ACNW in this effort.

We found the discussions beneficial, and the NRC staff was fully responsive to our questions. We concluded that DHLWM has good leadership and their work is progressing well. We were particularly impressed by the efforts of the division director to keep the size of his staff modest and to monitor rather than duplicate the work of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

In terms of the work of this Committee concerning the NRC staff's ongoing review of the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) and their preparation of the Site Characterization Analysis for the HLW repository, we have concluded that our resources would best be directed to the activities noted below and intend to proceed in this direction:

1. An evaluation of the several "Review Plans" completed or being developed by the NRC staff to be used as guidance for its reviews, e.g., the Review Plans for the SCP and for Performance Assessment,
2. An evaluation of DOE's responses to the five "Objections" cited by the NRC staff concerning the Consultation Draft SCP; any additional areas of disagreement resulting from DOE's responses to the "Point Papers," which were prepared by the NRC staff; any substantive concerns raised by the state of Nevada; and any additional areas noted by the ACNW as being of special interest.

We also plan to review selected HLW rules, key NRC Technical Positions, and Regulatory Guides which are being developed within the NRC, as well as related plans and reports being developed by DOE. In addition, we plan to review relevant research under the direction of NRC, including the programs of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses.

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr. - 2 -

January 25, 1989

If there are additional areas important to the Commission on which you desire our input, we will be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman