



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

ACNWX-89-10

May 3, 1989

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

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMISSION POLICY ON EXEMPTIONS FROM REGULATORY CONTROL

During its ninth meeting, April 26-28, 1989, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) met with members of the NRC staff to discuss the proposed Commission Policy on Exemptions from Regulatory Control. We also had the benefit of the document referenced. This matter was also a subject for discussion at several of our previous meetings. We most recently commented to you on this matter on December 30, 1988.

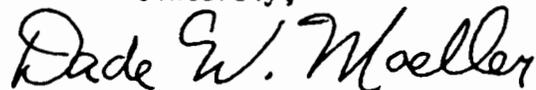
As a result of our review, we believe the latest version of the proposed Policy Statement has successfully addressed a number of formerly unresolved issues. Areas that still need to be strengthened and/or clarified are listed below:

1. The Policy Statement should state unequivocally that practices (including sources and devices) that are candidates for exemption should not, taking into consideration all such practices, result in an annual dose rate greater than a small fraction [i.e., about 10 mrem (about 0.1 mSv) per year] of the long-term annual dose limit [100 mrem (1 mSv) per year] for individual members of the public. Although this could mean that the dose rate from individual sources might approach 10 mrem (0.1 mSv) per year, suitable adjustments will need to be made where a given population group might be exposed to multiple sources.
2. Another important consideration, particularly in terms of releases of radioactive materials into the environment which represent an irretrievable action, is the associated longer-term dose commitment to the affected population. In essence, the proposed policy must take into consideration both the annual dose and the dose commitment.
3. We continue to believe that the permissible annual collective dose limit should be reduced as the allowable dose rate to members of the public from individual practices increases. We urge that this approach be made a part of the Policy Statement.

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4. Although differences in the dose rates to members of the public from natural background sources can be used to provide perspective, we believe that such differences should not be used as a justification for setting dose rate limits for practices being considered for exemption. The Policy Statement should be modified to reflect this limitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Reference:

Memorandum dated April 13, 1989 from Bill M. Morris, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), for Raymond F. Fraley, ACRS, transmitting Preliminary RES Draft of Proposed Commission Policy on Exemptions from Regulatory Control