



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

January 30, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: FINAL RULE ON STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL IN NRC-APPROVED
STORAGE CASKS AT POWER REACTOR SITES

During its 16th meeting, January 24-25, 1990, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste reviewed the October 27, 1989 version of the subject rule. We had the benefit of discussions with the staff and the document listed. The Committee also reviewed a previous version of the rule during its first meeting, June 27-29, 1988.

The Committee concludes that the NRC staff has done a fully satisfactory job in responding to the many comments received on the proposed rule and has been responsive to the recommendations made by the ACNW in its letter of July 1, 1988. In light of the potential need to accommodate spent fuel for some period prior to disposal in a repository, the Committee recommends timely approval and promulgation of this rule.

The discussions with the staff on this rule have made it clear that the principal issues raised by the public, and also most recently by the Committee, concern the implementation process, i.e., the certification of the casks and the thoroughness with which the staff examines the nuances of design and operation of the dry-cask storage facilities at nuclear power plant sites. We believe that initial certification and later recertification can be done in a satisfactory manner but urge that, in the absence of long experience with this type of storage, particular care be taken in the early stages of the program to ensure that the health and safety of both the public and plant personnel are protected.

Sincerely,

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

January 30, 1990

Reference:

Memorandum dated November 30, 1989 from B. Morris, RES, to R. F. Fraley, ACRS, Subject: Final Rule Entitled, "Storage of Spent Fuel in NRC-Approved Casks at Power Reactor Sites."