



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

December 2, 1991

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS MEMORANDUM (SRM) M910725A DATED
AUGUST 21, 1991

In the subject SRM, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste was asked "to investigate the feasibility of a systems analysis approach to reviewing the over-all high-level waste program, including the short and mid-range technical milestones for handling high-level waste and report back to the Commission the ACNW's recommendations as to the scope and advisability of it undertaking such a review." The SECY suspense date for this requested effort was November 22, 1991.

Subsequent to this assignment, the Committee met with Robert M. Bernero, Director, NMSS, and had discussions with other knowledgeable members of the NRC staff and with nuclear industry representatives. Additionally, I had the benefit of discussions with you and Commissioner Rogers and Commissioner Remick.

In order to obtain the necessary background, the Committee has scheduled meetings with the former Chairman of the Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) Commission and the Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Additional discussions with others, such as the Nuclear Waste Negotiator, are under consideration. A variety of related documents have also been reviewed.

In light of our desire to respond to your request in an adequate manner, we have concluded that we cannot meet the SECY suspense date and, therefore, request an extension to the May-June 1992 time frame. The Committee believes that by then the Committee should be able to outline the significant questions of interest to, and relevant to, future NRC activities related to this subject.

An update of the project status will be provided during our December 1991 meeting with the Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman