



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

May 1, 1992

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

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: PROGRAM PLAN FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

Since December 1989, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) has provided at four-month intervals a program plan of anticipated Committee activities. This letter covers May through August 1992¹. We view these letters as a convenient avenue for us to share information on our proposed activities. We invite you to provide guidance on issues on which the Commission desires that we focus our efforts.

In preparing this program plan, we have considered the list of technical issues of particular interest to the Commission, requests of individual Commissioners, the list of items proposed by the EDO's office for ACRS and ACNW consideration, the NRC's Five-Year Plan, and items of particular interest and/or concern to the Committee members. The priority for each issue proposed is based on information provided by representatives of NMSS, NRR, RES, and the EDO's office, as well as our own interpretation of the subject in relation to our activities as a Committee and our input into the regulatory process.

This program plan is based on the current best estimates of work output by the DOE, EPA, NRC staff, and their consultants and contractors, as well as our own views on how to deal with these issues effectively. In addition to the full Committee meetings noted, we will hold working group meetings as necessary to facilitate full Committee review and action. There may be some revisions to this plan depending on the progress of NRC staff, applicant, and/or contractor studies and reviews, as well as other schedular problems beyond our control.

¹ Since the August meeting has been deferred, the next program plan will be submitted in September.

Full Committee meeting dates for this period are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 43rd meeting - May 28-29, 1992
- 44th meeting - June 23-25, 1992 (Site Visit/Meeting, Richland, Washington)
- 45th meeting - July 30-31, 1992
- 46th meeting - Deferred to September 24-25, 1992

The Committee anticipates that it will consider the topics listed below during this four-month period.

May 28-29, 1992 - 43rd ACNW Meeting

- The Committee will address a supplemental request from Chairman Selin made on April 24, 1992, on a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program. (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on the design-basis-accident rulemaking for a high-level waste repository (Controlled-Use Area/Design Basis Accident Limit). (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on proposed changes to 10 CFR Part 72 concerning emergency planning for independent spent fuel storage installations and a monitored retrievable storage facility. (High Priority)
- The Committee will hear a report on relevant topics discussed during the 24th Annual Meeting of the Conference of State Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed on the adoption by EPA of a revised Hazard Ranking System for use in assessing the risk associated with the release or potential release into the environment of hazardous chemicals and/or radioactive materials. (Medium Priority)

June 23-25, 1992 (Site Visits/Meetings)

The Committee will visit facilities at the Hanford reservation and meet near Richland, Washington. Current plans include:

- Tuesday, June 23, 1992 (Site Visits)
 - U.S. Ecology waste disposal facility
 - Briefing/demonstration of geoscience models used to predict radionuclide transport

- Wednesday, June 24, 1992 (Site Visit)
 - Visit LLW grouting facilities
 - Visit site of LLW in-situ vitrification experiments
 - Visit and discussion of N-Reactor decommissioning program
 - Visit one of the original graphite reactors
- Thursday, June 25, 1992 (A.M. - Site Visit)
 - Visit with LLW modeling and Performance Assessment groups including current program and international perspectives
- Thursday, June 25, 1992 (P.M.) 44th ACNW Meeting (Public Meeting)

Topics include:

- The Committee will address the request from Chairman Selin made on April 24, 1992, for a supplemental report regarding the systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program. (High Priority)
- The Committee will hear a report from the ACNW Working Group Chairman on a recent meeting in which the NRC staff presented the results of their review of DOE's Early Site Suitability Evaluation. It is anticipated that ACNW comments on these topics will be prepared. (High Priority)
- Status of remedial actions at the Hanford site. (High Priority)
- Briefing and discussion of HLW vitrification program (Medium Priority)

July 30-31, 1992 - 45th ACNW Meeting

- The Committee will address a supplemental request from Chairman Selin made on April 24, 1992, on a systems analysis approach to reviewing the overall high-level waste program. (High Priority)
- The Committee will review and comment on a proposed technical position on the repository design for thermal loads. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will discuss with a representative of the State of Connecticut experiences related to the selection of a site

for a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. (Medium Priority)

August 13-14, 1992 - 46th ACNW Meeting

- Deferred until September 24-25, 1992.

Other Topics: (Will be considered as documents and time become available consistent with priorities noted)

- The Committee will be briefed by the HLW staff on its position on penetration of the Calico Hills tuff and their review of DOE's Calico Hills/Risk-Benefit Analysis. (High Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed by the DOE on the Yucca Mountain Project Office data management system. (Medium Priority)
- The Committee will be briefed on the NRC staff's review of the DOE reports on the Exploratory Studies Facility Alternatives Study and site suitability analyses. (High Priority)

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

ACNW Working Group on NRC Staff Comments on the DOE's Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) for the Yucca Mountain High-Level Repository, June 17, 1992. The Working Group will be briefed by the NRC staff regarding issues and concerns resulting from the NRC staff's review of DOE's ESSE and its associated conclusions.

ACNW Working Group on Phase 2 of the HLW Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA), September 23, 1992 (Tentative) Bethesda, Md. The Working Group will discuss the progress of Phase 2 of the HLW Iterative Performance Assessment effort by NRC. The Group will also be briefed by DOE representatives regarding the status of the DOE's Total System Performance Assessment.

ACNW Working Group on Inadvertent Human Intrusion Related to the Presence of Natural Resources at a High-Level Repository Site, October 21, 1992, Bethesda, Md. The Working Group will discuss methodologies for the assessment of the potential for natural resources at the proposed high-level waste repository site at Yucca Mountain. The relationship between such resources and the potential for human intrusion will be emphasized. The Working Group will also consider a DOE study plan on this topic.

The Impact of Long-Range Climate Change in the Area of the Southern Basin and Range, November 18, 1992 (Tentative), Bethesda, Md. - The Working Group will discuss the historical evidence and the potential for climate changes in the Southern Basin and Range and

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the impact of climate changes on the performance of the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

This list represents our best estimate of the topics to be considered through August 1992. If you or the other Commissioners have additional items to suggest or proposed changes in priorities, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

cc: Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
Samuel J. Chilk, SECY
James M. Taylor, EDO
Robert M. Bernero, NMSS