



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

May 25, 1993

Mr. James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF APRIL 21, 1993, DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM PLAN

During its 53rd meeting, May 19-20, 1993, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste met with the NRC staff to discuss the latest draft of the "High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan" (Draft NUREG-1406). Last year the Committee reviewed an earlier draft of the report. Our comments at that time were summarized in a letter to you dated May 1, 1992. More recently, individual members of the Committee have interacted with representatives of the RES staff on this subject on an informal basis.

On the basis of our latest review, we offer the following comments:

1. The current draft of the report shows progress and reflects considerable effort on the part of the NRC staff. Although we believe they have conscientiously attempted to respond to our suggestions and comments, we recognize that development of the report is an iterative process that is not completed.
2. Concerns regarding the draft document are enumerated in the transcript of our meeting on May 19, 1993. These concerns include a need to define the audience for the report; to improve the clarity and conciseness of the discussions of the principal issues; to provide better guidance for improved programmatic interactions among the several relevant groups and organizations; and to define clearly the methodology for assigning priorities and resources.
3. We recommend the completed revised report be reviewed by senior level members of the NRC management staff.

Overall, we have concluded that development of the draft High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan has been a useful learning process for all involved. Although considerable progress has been made, work remains.

Mr. James M. Taylor

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We trust these comments will be deemed constructive and that they will provide useful guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Reference:

NRC High-Level Radioactive Waste Research Program Plan (NUREG 1406)
Pre-Decisional April 21, 1993 Draft Document