



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

August 10, 1995

The Honorable Shirley A. Jackson
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jackson:

SUBJECT: REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO CONTAMINATED STEEL-SMELTING
FACILITIES AND DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED BAGHOUSE DUST

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) has received a letter, dated June 5, 1995, from James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, as a response to our report dated April 28, 1995, to Chairman Selin about contaminated steel-smelting facilities and the disposal of contaminated baghouse dust. In reference to comments in the third paragraph of the letter from Mr. Taylor, we agree that a study of the regulatory program involved in this matter is desirable and that recommendations should be made to alleviate the deficiencies that appear to be extant. But, we believe that the one-year duration assigned for such a study reflects a pace that signals a lack of urgency on the part of the NRC. If the incidents that were discussed in some detail at the ACNW meeting were isolated ones, such a pace could perhaps be justified. However, the information provided to the Committee indicated that the incidents of inadvertent contamination are relatively frequent. We believe that this situation requires more concerted action on the part of the NRC and recommend that the working group's study be performed on a much shorter time schedule.

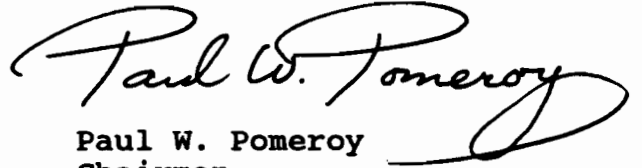
We continue to believe that the proper management of the large number of sources and the accompanying low-level waste is the province of the Agreement States, but in the matter of oversight, the responsibility of the NRC is to ensure that Agreement State programs are effective.

The Committee wishes to be kept informed on the progress of the study and the development of the NRC staff position regarding this type of waste. In the case of the latter staff effort, we recognize the potential difficulties attending the implementation

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of any practical position developed by the staff and are prepared to provide assistance and review as may be useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul W. Pomeroy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Paul W. Pomeroy
Chairman