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June 10, 1981



SECY-81-368

POLICY ISSUE
(Affirmation)

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: Raymond F. Fraley, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF ACRS MEMBER

PURPOSE: To recommend that the Commission appoint Dr. Richard D. Baker to the current vacancy on the ACRS as a replacement for Dr. Stephen Lawroski.

DISCUSSION: On February 6, 1981, the NRC invited members of the public to submit nominations for individuals to be considered for appointment to the ACRS. The press release was called to the attention of a number of scientific and technical organizations and addressed the need for a member with a background in chemical engineering, specifically knowledgeable in the areas of radioactive waste management and disposal, spent fuel storage and processing, and/or chemical engineering problems associated with the design and operation of nuclear power reactors and facilities.

The current nominees, past nominees, ACRS consultants, and other individuals were considered. Based on its review, the Committee recommends that the Commission appoint Dr. Richard D. Baker, recently retired Associate Director of National Security Programs, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, to the present vacancy.

The ACRS Staff has concluded a reference check on Dr. Baker and selected ACRS members have met with and interviewed him. Based on these interviews and qualification checks, the Committee believes Dr. Baker would be well suited to serve on the Committee. Attachment 1 contains a background statement on Dr. Baker. Dr. Baker's experience of nearly 40 years in

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 6
FOIA- 92-436

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nuclear and metallurgical chemistry is consistent with the criteria stated as desirable in the press release requesting nominees.

A total of approximately 50 individuals were given serious consideration for the vacancy. Although it is normal practice for the Committee to send a panel of 2 or more candidates to the Commission for a final selection, the ACRS is unable to do so in this case. In spite of considerable searching for qualified candidates who did not have prohibitive conflict-of-interest restrictions or limitations on their time, the Committee was unable to locate more than a single qualified candidate.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission appoint Dr. Richard D. Baker to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards for a four-year term to begin as soon as practicable. A proposed letter confirming appointment is included as Attachment 2.

COORDINATION: Dr. Baker has indicated that he would be available to accept appointment to the Committee. The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed the financial interests of Dr. Baker and has no objection to his being appointed.

SUNSHINE ACT: It is recommended that, if discussion of this paper is required, such discussion be held in closed session pursuant to Exemption 6 of the Act. OGC concurs in this recommendation concerning the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Attachments:

1. Biographic Sketch - Dr. Richard D. Baker
2. Proposed Letter of Appointment

Commissioners' comments should be provided directly to the Office of the Secretary by o.b. Wednesday, June 24, 1981.

Commission Staff Office comments, if any, should be submitted to the Commissioners NLT June 17, 1981, with an information copy to the Office of the Secretary. If the papers are of such a nature that it requires additional time for analytical review and comment, the Commissioners and the Secretariat should be apprised of when comments may be expected.

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ATTACHMENT 1
UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

-RICHARD D. BAKER-

BORN:

EDUCATION: BS - South Dakota School of Mines 1936
PhD- Iowa State University 1941 (Physical Chem.)

MEMBERSHIPS: American Chemical Society
American Society of Metals

RESEARCH: Atomic energy
Lime and building materials
Low pressure carburization

EXPERIENCE: U.S. Gypsum Co. 1941-43
Research Chemist
Los Alamos National Laboratory
1943-45 Research on the chemistry and metallurgy of plutonium. Developed the reduction method for the preparation of plutonium metal and its purification. Developed the reduction method for the preparation of enriched uranium metals. Involved in the studies of metallurgy of plutonium and its fabrication.
1945-48 Group Leader of Uranium Chemistry and Metallurgy
1948-56 Group Leader of both the Uranium Chemistry and Metallurgy Group and Plutonium Chemistry and Metallurgy Group
1956-79 Division Leader of Chemistry-Material Division. Involved with materials research and development for all programs at the Laboratory. Examples: Weapons Program; Fast Reactor Fuels Program; Inertial Fusion Program; Magnetic Fusion Program; Safeguards Program; DoD Programs; Laser Program
1979-81 Associate Director of National Security Program. This included: Weapons Programs, Safeguards and Security Programs, Inertial Fusion Programs, Laser Programs, Weapons Research and Development, and Testing and Verification.
1981 Recently retired.

REFERENCE: American Men & Women of Science, 14th Edition, 1979
Prepared 6/4/81



OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

Dr. Richard D. Baker
1999 Juniper
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dear Dr. Baker:

I have been informed of your willingness to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. As you know, the ACRS advises the Commission on the safety of proposed or existing reactor facilities, the adequacy of proposed reactor safety standards, and such other duties as the Commission may request.

Although we will make an effort to minimize our demands on your time, we recognize that service on the Committee will entail some sacrifices on your part. We appreciate your willingness to give your time and energies to an effort which is so essential to the further progress of the Nation's nuclear regulatory program.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman