

GCNW-0078  
PDR 2/17/94

MINUTES OF THE 60TH ACNW MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 1993

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# CERTIFIED

Issued: February 4, 1994

MINUTES OF THE 60TH MEETING OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE  
DECEMBER 20, 1993  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

The 60th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste was held at Room P-110, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, on Monday, December 20, 1993. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and take appropriate actions on the items listed in the attached agenda. The meeting was open to public attendance. A transcript of the meeting was not kept.

Dr. Dade W. Moeller, Committee Chairman, convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and briefly reviewed the schedule for the meeting. He stated that the meeting was being conducted in conformance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. He stated that the Committee had not received any requests from persons or organizations desiring to make an oral statements during the meeting. However, he invited members of the public, who were present and had something to contribute, to let the ACNW staff know so that time could be allocated for them to make oral statements.

ACNW members, Drs. William J. Hinze, Paul W. Pomeroy, and Martin J. Steindler, were present. [For a list of attendees, see Appendix III.]

## I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Open)

[Note: Mr. Richard K. Major was the Designated Federal Official for this part of the meeting.]

Dr. Moeller identified a number of items that he believed to be of interest to the Committee, including that comments on the White Paper were received from the NRC Commissioners.

Dr. Larkins reported that Commissioner Rogers and de Planque visited the ACRS/ACNW offices and held discussions with the ACRS/ACNW staff regarding their assignments. After these discussions, the Commissioners noted that they were impressed with the technical competency of the staff. Dr. Larkins indicated that the ACRS/ACNW will still need to reduce FTEs in fiscal year 1995. Mr. Howard Larson, ACNW staff, also mentioned that Commissioners Rogers and de Planque want to be alerted to potential issues that may become consequential to the Commission.

II. PREPARATION FOR A MEETING WITH THE NRC COMMISSIONERS ON  
DECEMBER 21, 1993 (Open)

[Note: Mr. Richard Major was the Designated Federal Official for this part of the meeting.]

The Committee discussed several methods for being kept informed on upcoming issues on the Commissioners agenda. Dr. Larkins stated that he was making every effort to establish a routine mechanism for receiving detailed information on upcoming items. Dr. Steindler asked for a few examples of the work item tracking system (WITS) output.

The Committee discussed several items that are likely to be major issues for the NRC Commissioners. The Committee discussed the definition of "integration" as it may be applied to the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Program. Dr. Hinze suggested that the surface based testing should have been completed before tunneling into Yucca Mountain began.

Dr. Pomeroy noted that characterizing the Ghost Dance fault should be a high priority item for the U.S. Department of Energy. He also suggested that DOE establish a high priority for its investigation of potentially fast groundwater paths through the unsaturated zone.

Dr. Moeller suggested that the Committee provide a list of items that the Commission should address, including Part 960.

The Committee discussed the items to be addressed during the meeting with the Commissioners.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Open)

[Note: Mr. Richard K. Major was the Designated Federal Official for this part of the meeting.]

A. Future Committee Activities

The Committee discussed anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting dates and agenda.

- Dr. Pomeroy agreed to attend the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting on January 11-12, 1994, in Arlington, Virginia. Representatives of the ACNW staff will also attend this meeting.
- Several members indicated an interest in meeting with Mr. Robert Bernero immediately after the meeting with the NRC

Commissioners. Arrangements for such a meeting were made by the ACNW staff.

- Dr. Moeller suggested that the Committee develop a position paper on the use of natural analogs as a means for estimating the long term behavior of high-level radioactive waste. No decision was made by the Committee.
- Mr. Larson announced that representatives of the Low Level Waste Forum are scheduled to meet with the Commission to discuss state programs. The members expressed interest in meeting with these representatives following the Commission meeting to discuss the state compatibility issue.

B. Future Meeting Agenda

Appendix IV summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the 61st ACNW Meeting, February 23-24, 1994, and future Working Group meetings. [Subsequent to this meeting, the January meeting was cancelled.]

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m., Monday, December 20, 1993.

office of the ACRS as far in advance as practical so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Executive Director of the office of the ACRS, Dr. John T. Larkins (telephone 301/492-4516), prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the ACNW Executive Director or call the recording (301/492-4600) for the current schedule if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Dated: November 24, 1993.

John C. Hoyle,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 93-29428 Filed 11-30-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

#### Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 60th meeting on Monday, December 20, 1993, in room P-422, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

Monday, December 20, 1993—3 p.m. until 6 p.m.:

The Committee will prepare for its discussion with NRC Commissioners and discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting dates and agenda, and administrative matters, as appropriate.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the *Federal Register* on June 6, 1988 (53 FR 20699). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. The office of the ACRS is providing staff support for the ACNW. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Executive Director of the office of the ACRS as far in advance as practical so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Executive Director of the office of the ACRS, Dr. John T. Larkins (telephone 301/492-4516), prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman

as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the ACNW Executive Director or call the recording (301/492-4600) for the current schedule if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Dated: November 24, 1993.

John C. Hoyle,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 93-29427 Filed 11-30-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374]

#### Commonwealth Edison Co.; Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity For a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-11 and NPF-18 issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee) for operation of the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, located in LaSalle County, Illinois.

The proposed amendments would approve a revision to the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR), section 11.5.2.1.4, which specifies that currently, operator action is required to trip the mechanical vacuum pump upon receipt of a main steam line high radiation alarm rather than the automatic trip currently described in the UFSAR. NRC approval is required because this existing condition, contrary to that described in the UFSAR and the NRC's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) related to the operation of LaSalle County Station (NUREG-0519), involves an unreviewed safety question.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendments requested involve no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendments would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its

analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

(1) Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because:

The lack of an automatic trip and isolation of the LaSalle Unit 1 and 2 mechanical vacuum pumps does not change the accident initiators for a design basis control rod drop accident or the inventory of fuel fission products available for release during this accident. Therefore, the probability of the design basis control rod drop accident is not changed.

The lack of an automatic trip and isolation of the LaSalle Unit 1 and 2 mechanical vacuum pumps does not significantly increase the consequences of the design basis control rod drop accident provided that the mechanical vacuum pump is tripped within 15 minutes of receiving the main steam high radiation trip alarms. Fifteen minutes for this operator action is reasonable time to respond to alarms based on licensed operator training, including simulator training. The trip is accomplished with a hand switch located on the Main Control Room front panels. A Human Factors Task Analysis has been performed by Commonwealth Edison and found acceptable assessing the actions to be performed by the control room operator. Also, the time that the mechanical vacuum pump operates during reactor startup, approximately 8 hours, does not affect the probability of the design basis control rod drop accident.

UFSAR (Updated Final Safety Analysis Report) section 15.4.9 states that a rod drop does not exceed the 260 cal/gm design limit and failure of fuel cannot result naturally from a control rod drop accident. This determination was based on the following input parameters and initial conditions:

At the time of the control rod drop accident the core is assumed to be at a cycle point which results in the highest control rod worth. The core is also assumed to contain no xenon, to be in a hot-startup condition, and to have the control rods in sequence at a 50% rod density. The assumption to remove xenon, which competes well for neutron absorptions, increases the fractional absorptions, or worth of the control rods. The 50% control rod density assumption, ("black and white" rod pattern), which nominally occurs at the hot-startup condition, ensures that withdrawal on the next rod results in the maximum increment of reactivity.

The control rod drop accident analysis is performed as described in:

General Electric (GE) document NEDE-24011-P-A-10-US, "General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel (GESTAR-II), Supplement for United States, dated March 1991.

If the worth of any control rod is determined to be greater than 1%  $\Delta k/k$ , a cycle specific control rod drop analysis is performed in accordance with:

Commonwealth Edison Co. Nuclear Fuel Services Report, NFSR-0075, Rev. O, "Control Rod Sequence Simplification," December, 1989.

The analysis for each unit's current cycle performed per NFSR-0075 verifies that heat



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

December 3, 1993

SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION  
60TH ACNW MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 1993

Monday, December 20, 1993, Room P-110, 7920 Norfolk Avenue,  
Bethesda, MD

- 1) <sup>1</sup> 2:00-3:10 p.m. Opening Remarks by the ACNW Chairman (Open)  
3:10-3:25 Break 1.1) Opening Remarks (DWM/RKM)  
1.2) Items of Current Interest (DWM/RKM)
- 2) <sup>3:25 5</sup> 3:10-4:30 p.m. Prepare for Discussion with\* the NRC  
Commissioners on December 21, 1993 (10:00-  
11:30 a.m., OWFN) (Open)  
2.1) Prepare remarks on Program Plan of  
November 10, 1993  
2.2) Prepare remarks on recent ACNW Visit to  
Proposed Yucca Mountain Site  
(ACNW/Staff)
- 3) <sup>5 45</sup> 4:30-5:00 p.m. Anticipated Activities (Open)  
3.1) Discuss anticipated and proposed  
Committee activities, future meeting  
dates and agenda, and administrative  
matters as appropriate

<sup>45</sup>  
5:00

ADJOURN

\*On the morning of December 21, 1993, the Committee will leave from the Phillips Building at 9:30 a.m. and travel by van to OWFN. Following the Commission meeting the Committee will be returned to the Phillips Building.

APPENDIX III: MEETING ATTENDEES

60TH ACNW MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 1993

ACNW MEMBERS

Dr. William J. Hinze	<u>  X  </u>
Dr. Dade W. Moeller	<u>  X  </u>
Dr. Paul W. Pomeroy	<u>  X  </u>
Dr. Martin J. Steindler	<u>  X  </u>

ACNW STAFF

Ms. Lynn F. Deering	<u>  X  </u>
Mr. Howard J. Larson	<u>  X  </u>
Dr. John T. Larkins	<u>  X  </u>
Mr. Richard K. Major	<u>  X  </u>
Dr. Richard P. Savio	<u>  X  </u>
Mr. H. Stanley Schofer	<u>  X  </u>

ATTENDEES FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC

Philip M. Dunn            TRW/CRWMS, M&O

## APPENDIX IV: FUTURE AGENDA

**61st ACNW Committee Meeting** February 23-24, 1994 (Tentative Agenda)

Compatibility of NRC and Agreement State Regulations (Open) - Discuss with the NRC staff the issues associated with the compatibility of Federal and State regulations governing licensees.

Volcanism (Open) - Hear briefing by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on volcanism issues as related to the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository.

Pneumatic Pathways (Open) - Hear briefing by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on pneumatic pathway concerns raised by the State of Nevada.

Committee Activities (Open/Closed) - Discuss anticipated and proposed Committee activities, future meeting dates and agenda, and organizational matters. Also, the members will discuss matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings.

### Working Group Meetings

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Performance Assessment, March 22, 1994, Bethesda, Maryland, (Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will review the NRC's low-level waste performance assessment program, with emphasis on the status of the draft Branch Technical Position and the NRC staff's performance assessment capability. Issues to be examined include on-going and planned activities, milestones and schedules, results of on-going test case analyses, and the role of the NRC in evaluating Agreement State's performance assessment programs.

Groundwater Age Dating, June 1994, Bethesda, Maryland (Lynn Deering) - The Working Group will discuss the results of groundwater age dating at the proposed Yucca Mountain site and implications of the results on groundwater travel time and flow paths.

NRC Staff Capabilities in Performance Assessment and Computer Modeling of High-Level Waste Disposal Facilities, Date to be determined, Bethesda, Maryland (Giorgio Gnugnoli) - The Working Group will discuss progress in the NRC's Iterative Performance Assessment (PA) Program, the NRC staff's completion of an expert elicitation exercise, and progress in the execution of the NRC's modular computer model. These discussions will be performed periodically, along with the review of NRC reports, to remain appraised of the degree of in-house and contractor-supported PA capability, the coordination and integration between data analysts and computer modelers, revisions to the High-Level Radioactive Waste Management PA Strategy Plan, and future plans for PA development.



APPENDIX V  
LIST OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE

[Note: Some documents listed below may have been provided or prepared for Committee use only. These documents must be reviewed prior to release to the public.]

MEETING HANDOUTS

AGENDA

DOCUMENTS

ITEM NO.

- 1 Opening Remarks by the ACNW Chairman
  1. Summary of Discussions with Dr. Philip Justus (Including Summary of Comments by Nevada State Senator Thomas Hickey), dated December 16, 1993, by Dade W. Moeller
- 2 Prepare for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners
  2. Memorandum to Richard K. Major, Chief, Nuclear Waste Branch, ACNW, from Dade W. Moeller, Chairman, dated November 29, 1993, regarding Possible Topics for Meeting with Commissioners
- 3 Anticipated Activities
  3. Topics for Consideration for Upcoming ACNW Meetings, dated December 18, 1993, by Dade W. Moeller
  4. Selected Articles on Waste Management from Nuclear News, December 1993
- 4 Meeting with Commissioners on December 21, 1993
  5. ACNW Letter to Chairman Selin, dated November 10, 1993, regarding the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Program Plan (White Paper)

MEETING NOTEBOOK CONTENTS

No meeting notebook was prepared.