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TRIP REPORT  
December 6, 1990

SUBJECT: ANS Annual Meeting  
(1/2 = 20-3702-021 and 1/2 = 20-3702-071)

DATE and PLACE: November 11-12, 1990, Washington, D.C.

AUTHOR: Robert Adler

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

To report on Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division Annual Meeting, the ANS sessions conducted on November 12, 1990, "New Directions for the 1990's" and MRS Facility "Would Repository Collocation be a Solution?"

SUMMARY OF PERTINENT POINTS:

(a) The conference was attended by 1160 persons with 122 technical sessions and 530 papers.

(b) Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division Meeting. Subject meeting was held on November 11, 1990, to discuss reorganization of the committee and plan the program for next year's annual meeting in San Francisco.

Mr. T. Woods, Section Chairman, proposed a new operational concept for the Division designed to invigorate future activities. The purpose of the reorganization was to realign the focus of the Division and sharpen the perception of what was going to take place in the future, rather than discussing events that had occurred in the past. This new concept was approved by the Executive Committee for implementation.

The Division was reorganized to identify proactive topics and plan for sessions in these areas at future meetings.

The author was named Section Chairman for the session on "Environmental Waste Restoration Coordination" at the San Francisco meeting.

(c) Luncheon Presentation by Dr. J. Bartlett, OCWRM. Dr. Bartlett was the Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division Luncheon speaker.

He had a nine-point DOE program presentation which is summarized as follows:

1. DOE Access to Yucca Mountain DOE is ready to begin on-site testing in January, 1991; permits are expected to be issued.
2. MRS A vital and absolute part of the Repository System. A siting decision is needed by late 1992. DOE will work with Negotiator.
3. Integration of Transportation Will include the integration of storage and disposal facilities. DOE will conduct a functional analysis between and within parts of the system.
4. Site Suitability Criteria established by 10 CFR Part 960 are being reviewed regarding time, money and resources needed to reduce uncertainties. Three study efforts are currently under way by EPRI, Golder Associates and in-house analyses. One objective is to use results to prioritize testing programs to determine site suitability.
5. Senate Hearings Exchange of ideas before Graham (FL) subcommittee (transcript available). Attendees included NRC, DOE, EPA, Electric Utilities, State of Nevada and NAS. Consensus was evident with the exception of Nevada.
6. Mission Plan This to be delayed until trade-off analysis is complete (July, 1991). [See 8. Strategic Planning (below)]
7. NAS Report "Rethinking High-Level Waste." DOE was in general agreement with the report since they have been changing their program over the past few years. They have recognized the changes needed.
8. Strategic Planning OCRWM will hold two workchops. Salt Lake City in December, 1990 and Washington, D.C. in January, 1991 to discuss programmatic issues defined by DOE and get a feeling what options to each issue can achieve a consensus. Some issues are: Cooling of Waste Form, Dual Casks, etc.
9. QA DOE is following NRC advice and will have a program in place.

(d) New Directions for the 1990's. Speakers were: M. Deland, White House Council on Environmental Quality; L. Mills, EEI; J. Ohanian, University of Florida; M. Okabe, JAPC-Japan and W. Young, Assistant Secretary for Energy. Senator J. McClure was unable to attend highlights of the discussion/presentations.

All speakers discussed the special advantages of nuclear power.

Mr. W. Young (DOE) emphasized the forthcoming National Energy Strategy will send options to the President in December, 1990. Main issues are public understanding and misunderstanding that clean electricity is the key to the nation's health. The National Energy Strategy will address a 40-60 year life extension of nuclear power plants. New nuclear reactors will start building in 1990 and will be cost competitive to coal. New reactors must achieve, in addition to technology improvements, a greater level of standardization, early site approval process and licensing reforms of 10 CFR Part 52. (Congress must pass legislation to codify NRC rule since it was challenged in court.)

An interesting statistic derived from polls shows that 20% of the population oppose Nuclear Power; 59% are undecided; and 21% are advocates. The primary issue is the education of the 59% who are undecided.

Mr. M. Delard discussed conditions that nuclear power must meet in order to be a viable option -- these are: environment, energy and economy. NRC must establish criteria for safe reactors. DOE must design safe reactors and resolve waste disposal. New reactors are ten times safer than existing ones, the public must accept the risks and the nuclear energy industry must clearly resolve skepticism of risk/benefit. Other factors are: a full EIS must be addressed, licensing reform must occur and it must be streamlined.

If the waste disposal problem is not solved in the next few years, interim measures must be taken, such as:

1. New reactor designs to burn high-level waste as fuel,
2. Reprocessing,
3. Facility must have retrievable option for reprocessing.

(e) MRS. This session was organized and chaired by J. Scarborough (NRC). Highlights from the speakers are as follows:

1. Dr. L.D. Ramspott (LLNL) discussed three technical modifications to the repository which would be facilitated by inclusion of an MRS.

- a. Underground MRS at Yucca Mountain
- b. Phased Repository
- c. Cold Repository.

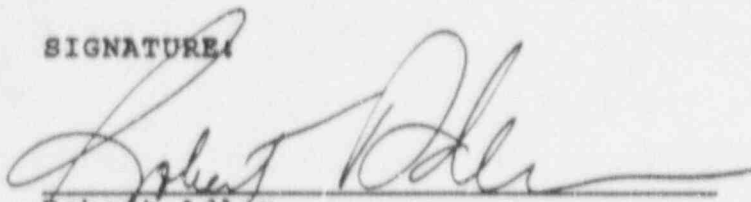
2. Mr. E. Coalglazier discussed the integrated "no MRS system" and the "collocated MRS." Neither one of these options would require an MRS to exist other than at Yucca Mountain.

3. Mr. D. Klein, who chaired the MRS Commission, reviewed the conclusions and recommendations a year after the report. No new information has been presented to change the original five conclusions. He also considered the three recommendations as still being valid.

4. Mr. L. Barrett, DOE, restated DOE policy to uncouple the MRS from the repository. MRS should start operation in 1998.

5. Mr. H. Inhaber, Ecology and Environment, proposed a Reversed Dutch Auction (RDA). The RDA would work as follows: a list of environmental criteria would be established, a siting authority (DOE) would pay for consultants to "pre-characterize" potential sites. At the beginning of the auction the siting authority would raise the bonus level at a continuous rate, no one would be forced to bid, the bonus would rise until someone bids or volunteers, two-thirds of the bonus would be transferred to a trust fund for the "winner" and the proposed site would be evaluated, and if approved, all money would accrue to the "winner."

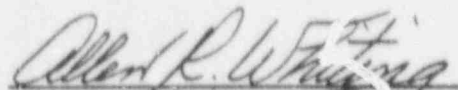
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CONCURRENCE:



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Allen Whiting, Director  
Systems Engineering & Integration



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Date