

R. Browning



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

FEB 08 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: M. Ernst, Acting Director, DRA, RES
 B. Buchbinder, Chief, T&MR, DRA, RES
 J. J. Davis, Chief, WM, DHSWM, RES
 E. F. Conti, Chief, SEB, DHSWM, RES
 L. Beratan, Chief, ESB, DHSWM, RES

FROM: Patricia A. Comella, Deputy Director
 Division of Health, Siting, and
 Waste Management, RES

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE FOR
 WASTE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

Ross has recently returned from a trip to Japan (trip report attached) during which he held exploratory discussions with the Japanese to determine whether and to what extent there might be interest in pursuing efforts to enter into a cooperative research agreement in waste management. In this regard, I call your attention to the following items in his trip report: Table 2, items 9, 10, 15 and 16; Tables 5, 6, 10; and Appendices D & E, which are reports concerning LLW and HLW disposal research, respectively; as well as to a report on HLW research brought back earlier by Kim (also attached).

As the next steps in the process, Ross has asked DHSWM to coordinate the implementation of his commitment to send a team of technical experts (NRC and appropriate contractors) to Japan during the third quarter FY83. The purpose of the visit would be to examine in detail what might enter into the substance of any future agreement; i.e., what the Japanese would seek from us, what they would be offering to us, and what technically might be the implications of such arrangements. Prior to the visit to Japan, there would be informal exchanges of information to identify topics for discussion and establish a preliminary agenda and itinerary. Following the American visit to Japan, a team of Japanese experts would make a reciprocal visit for the same purpose. Presumably drafting of a preliminary agreement would occur during this visit.

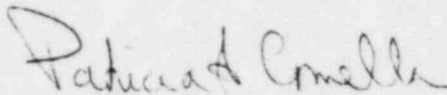
As part of the overall preparation I ask you to review carefully the attached reports in terms of the following:

- a) Potential utility to NRC of anticipated Japanese research results (models and codes as well as experimental results);

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- b) Potential for conduct of research of utility to NRC at Japanese facilities, such as WASTE-F and Akenobe Mine;
- c) Potential utility to Japanese of anticipated NRC research results;
- d) NRC contractors who might be part of the American team;
- e) Candidate agenda items for third quarter visit to Japan.

I would appreciate receiving your comments by February 14 so that I may reflect them in an informal letter to the Japanese identifying the questions, issues, etc. we wish to take up during the visit.



Patricia A. Comella, Deputy Director
Division of Health, Siting, and
Waste Management, RES

Attachments: As stated

cc: R. B. Minogue, RES
D. F. Ross, RES
F. J. Arsenault, RES
F. P. Gillespie, RES
J. Cortez, RES
J. Lafleur, IP